

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, May 20, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6pm; Georgia Schaich chaired the meeting. Introductions were made.

Attendees: Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Sandi Clothier, Near West Side, Sara Ivey Lucas, Dean of Students Office, IU, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Molly O'Donnell, Bill Milroy, Old Northeast, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Ryan Conway, Bryan Park, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge.

Energy Mobile and Ambassador Program- Molly O'Donnell

Molly O'Donnell gave an update on the Energy Mobile and Energy Ambassador Program. The Prius has now been wrapped with the Monroe County Energy Challenge logo and is available to come to neighborhood gatherings, just call Molly to schedule a visit. Also, the first training for Energy Ambassadors is June 4, again, contact Molly for more information at mollysod@gmail.com.

IU Assistant Dean for Parent and Off Campus Affairs- Sara Ivey Lucas

Sara began by explaining that IU is interested in continuing to enhance communication between students and neighbors; she has met with Pam Gladish, of the Bloomington Police Dept, and with Vickie Provine and Lisa Abbott of the HAND Department to understand the issues that come up between students and their neighbors. She explained that she can help Neighborhoods ask students to events, such as cookouts, and can provide tents as well as provide information and resources to neighborhoods to facilitate this interaction. This is a brand new initiative on campus. Sara asked for comments and questions from the CONA group, and some of the questions asked were the following:

Georgia mentioned the recycling program that is underway in her neighborhood, and the support they have received from students in their neighborhood.

Don asked if IU knew how many students lived off campus. IU has 12,000 residents and a little under 5,000 in Greek houses, and 45,000 students overall, with 28,000 in other housing.

Discussion followed regarding issues the neighborhoods face and the fact that the sheer numbers has threatened to overrun the town, causing many unintended consequences. Ms. Lucas invited us to continue to contact her office with questions and concerns, and to set up get togethers between neighbors and students.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and a motion to approve was put forward by Cynthia Bretheim, with Paul Ash as second; the vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth noted twenty seven cents in interest was made over the past month. Jo Basey motioned to approve, Don Granbois offered a second, and the report was unanimously approved.

Duke Energy Grid

Sandi noted that she had been told that Duke Energy was looking at the corner of 11th and Rogers as a site for an electric grid, in part due to the eventual Tech Park needs. A short discussion followed with the importance of a thorough screening so that the site is not an eyesore.

Current Planning Issues

There was no one present to address these issues.

Neighborhood Issues

Jo Basey announced that her neighborhood, Blue Ridge, is to be the first in Bloomington to become a Fiber optic neighborhood; Smithville worked with the Neighborhood Association and will have extremely fast internet service, being able to download a movie in 2 minutes. She noted that they had 56 households signed up by March 27, then 86 just a few weeks ago, and over 100 households now committed to Smithville. She also explained that the property values typically go up when homes are connected to fiber optic cable, although the actual costs of the service are comparable or lower than other services, such as Comcast.

Georgia announced that students in the Green Acres Neighborhood, who are in the IU School of Business and Environmental Affairs, wrote a Neighborhood Improvement Grant for the Neighborhood.

Suggested topics to follow up on IU issues

It was decided that the issue of students/ neighbors/ City interaction should come up again in CONA meetings, with these points being considered: need a serious discussion of interactions between IU and the City/ the bureaucracy that hinders understanding and effective solutions to problems/ downtown bar areas and the way they are treated by City, Police, Students/ need for cameras to record activity / food served at bars.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15

Submitted by Sandi Clothier, CONA Secretary