

# Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

## Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, June 17, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 and introductions were made.

Attendees: Georgia Schaich, Green Acres, Katerina Koch, Green Acres, Paul Ash, McDoel, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Andrew Cibor, City of Bloomington Plan Dept, Jo Basey, Blue Ridge, John Kennedy, Spicewood, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Sharon Yarber, Matlock Heights, Judy Berkshire, Eastside, Jenny Southern, Elm Heights, Sandi Clothier, Near West.

The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed, and Jo Basey noted that her name was misspelled in the minutes. No other corrections were noted, and the motion to approve was provided by Don Granbois, and seconded by Paul Ash; the vote to approve with correction was unanimous.

Treasurers Report- Elisabeth noted that Jon Lawrence was reimbursed for Updraft Plus software program, and that a deposit of 60 dollars was added to Green Acres NA account; the motion to approve was made by Jan Sorby, seconded by Sharon Yarber, and approved unanimously.

Jon noted that he was recently made aware of changes to the way grants, specifically the Small and Simple Grant, are administered today. It used to be that a neighborhood association would be given a check and now the City requires that the NA is reimbursed, and is asking for a federal ID or EIN number. Since no checks are issued for purchase, only reimbursement, CONA needs to work on this to get this resolved. Judy Berkshire related that if your own social security number is used for a grant, you may have to pay taxes on it; she explained this happened to her when she allowed her social security number to be used on a very substantial grant for her neighborhood.

### **Andrew Cibor, City Transportation & Traffic Engineer**

Andrew has just moved here from Boise Idaho, a few months ago. He is originally from Detroit, and studied at Northwestern University, just north of Chicago. He essentially has Adrian Reid's old job. He expressed a desire for us to feel free to contact him, and explained his focus is on transportation, managing capitol projects, roadways, etc. He is currently working with a couple inquiries related to traffic calming, and has previously worked managing all roadways in the area, as well as working with school district, roundabouts; he has also been on the consulting side of planning, having to do with cutting edge modes of traffic, pedestrian traffic. He report to Tom Micuda.

A question and answer session followed, and the following exemplifies some of the Q and A.

Jan- how do you feel about complete streets? AC- just yesterday hosted webinar on complete streets, believe in it.

Eliz asked about a storm water and curb project that was to have been done in 2014 in McDoel, do you know the status of this? AC- design is done, the funding is an issue, but they are working on it, hopefully will be through the TIF.

Judy –in her eastside neighborhood, Vectren has been putting in new pipelines and destroying the streets as they go, so whose responsibility is it to correct the street issue? AC- The Plan Dept is short-staffed, but it is their responsibility to oversee permits. With a new employee coming on, they will be getting back to oversight of Vectren and hold them

accountable. Judy- should we contact Vectren, or your office? AC- both is fine, our office is responsible for getting them to do their work.

Jenny- Vectren is also working in Elm Hts. some of them have been removed but as to driveways, Vectren has changed how they do the work, was told city is getting rid of grade issues so no slopes to cause hazards, sidewalks will be in flat. Concerns have arisen since this will cause potential icy areas. AC- call Andrew at 349-34232, he will work on this.

Jo- from center of road to the homeowner's property, what is right of way? AC- it varies by street, in some cases we don't have any right of way, plats would show this, the county, but a specific location can be figured out, but not a whole neighborhood.

Sandi- when a traffic issue is noted, are you the person to call? Specific question related to the sight line at 6<sup>th</sup> and Rogers; with cars parked along the west side of Rogers, it is impossible to see oncoming traffic and is extremely hazardous. AC- guidelines and sight lines are different from state to state, complaint goes to me, and an internal discussion will follow about ways to address the problem.

Jenny- question- timed traffic lights don't seem to work, and this is really important to all the neighborhoods, that traffic works properly, otherwise traffic morphs out into neighborhoods, is there a problem or is it just me? AC- One of my first things, list of things I'd do different is signal timing. There are about 83 traffic signals in the city, most cities would have a person dedicated to signal timing, but Bloomington does not. The city is trying to find funding to get updates done; walking downtown, and the walk indication is something on my radar.

Andrew thanked CONA for inviting him, and encouraged members to contact him with questions or concerns. CONA thanked Andrew for coming and expressed their appreciation for his time.

### **Rental Property Code and Enforcement Survey- Jan and Jenny**

The committee met to review the survey; it is basically two parts, a survey and an opportunity to write in something; we had 400 respondents, and 133 comments.

Results - 85% said they'd support measures to prevent over occupancy. Jan explained the survey results, and concluded that people generally want landlords to be held accountable. They will be talking with the HAND department about the results. It is understood that the city doesn't have the money to do a lot, but we want to have the conversation with them about what we found.

Discussion followed, some ideas expressed were the following:

Katarina- I'm a renter, it seems like all the conclusions are coming from homeowners. Instead of the full burden on landlords, ask renters to become more actively involved in the issues of neighborhoods. Would like to see more engagement between landlords and renters, and how CONA can support this. Jan noted that Bryan Park has a fall party to welcome new residents (IU students particularly). There needs to be a culture change to bring renters into the culture of belonging to neighborhoods. Jon noted that most renters are probably in a place for just a short time frame. Judy mentioned that, while she was at the Blooming Neighborhoods Event, she met someone who wanted to buy a home in their eastside neighborhood. How can we help create affordable housing for people who want to be in our neighborhood? Sandi asked if a CHODO (Community Housing Development Organization) could be part of the answer. Jan responded that this doesn't work, because the debt ratio is the problem for most who want to enter the housing market, large student loans are a huge part of the issue.

Jenny was impressed with the response, but noted that there are big holes from some neighborhoods, just one response from Highpoint, for instance.

This survey and the responses can be posted on CONA'S website, and other NA's can post the information.

### **Email for Neighborhood Communication**

Jon- I think we need to set up an email workshop for neighborhoods, and how to do it. We've cleaned out the mess, neighbors have helped maintain the civility and relevance in the Bryan Park NA. Smithville Fiber will be coming in August, turn it over to Smithville, to find the place and time. CONA can sponsor it but not be a CONA meeting.

### **Neighborhood Websites**

Jon reported that the websites have been completed, and he and John Grigutis are working to get the tools ready to roll out new websites within the next month or so. Jo Basey said she was eager to see this happen and that one of reasons neighborhood should be interested is that continuity will be easier.

### **Bloomington Hospital**

Jon and Jan are on the hospital committee, which will break into four separate committees: community outreach, Barry Lessow, Adam Wason/ facilities evaluation- Lee Charmichal, Jeff underwood/ site reuse- John West, Tom Micuda/ peer communities, Tina Peterson, Denise Alanso/ people from surrounding neighborhoods, Jack Baker/ facilities, Darrell Nehrer, Chris Sturbaum. The best hammer that the City has is that the property is zoned medical, so city has the ability to make it attractive to other uses. The only thing that the hospital will keep is the ambulance center. Jon and Jan will be keeping CONA up to date on issues.

### **Neighborhood Issues**

Elizabeth noted that the Open Streets will take place in McDoel on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be historic walks, an artist is going to help with chalk art on street; there will be a climbing wall and a wading pool, as well as food trucks, and an animal adoption. The entire community is welcome from 10-3pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm