

# Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

## Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, September 16, 2015

Attendees: Jan Sorby, Jon Lawrence, Ryan Conway, Bryan Park, John Grigutus, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, John Kennedy, Spicewood, Dave Walter, 6<sup>th</sup> & Ritter, Bill Milroy, Old NorthEast, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend, Judy Berkshire, EastSide, Carol-Anne Hossler, Presenter, Paul Ash, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, McDoel, Sandi Clothier, NearWestSide, Cynthia Brethem, Prospect Hill, Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03, and introductions were made.

Minutes: The minutes of August's meeting were reviewed, and the motion to approve was offered by Jan Sorby, and seconded by Carrie Winkler; the vote to approve was unanimous.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Elizabeth Cox-Ash, and Don Granbois made the motion to approve, Cynthia Brethem offered the second, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Jon introduced Carol-Anne Hossler, who came to talk with us about a special program at Stonebelt that has helped her son, and that she would like to encourage us to talk with our neighborhoods about to see if it can be expanded. She explained that this is a program that allows households to give food to the Community Kitchen, and have that food picked up by a representative of Stonebelt. The program works with a Stonebelt volunteer, who will come to your house to drop off a bag, and then pick up that bag after the homeowner places food in it. Carol-Anne would be happy to come to individual neighborhoods to talk more about this program; the goal is to have more people take part in this in order to provide Stonebelt clients an opportunity for meaningful work. For more information, contact Carol Ann directly at [chossler@indiana.edu](mailto:chossler@indiana.edu), or see more information at Hand In Hand at [stonebelt.org](http://stonebelt.org) the website.

Jon noted that CONA will be having elections in October, and for that purpose the nominations committee met and have a slate to present. They include officers currently in place, Carrie Winkle (Board member at large) and Elizabeth Cox-Ash (Treasurer), and two new candidates, John Kennedy for Vice Chair, and Don Grandbois for Member at Large. Any other nominations can be made in the next two weeks by email to CONA or google groups or directly to the nominating committee, Cynthia Brethem and Jan Sorby.

### CONA ANNUAL PARTY

This year's party will take place again in January, we do not have a grant for expenses this year. The planning committee will consist of Sandi Clothier, Don Granbois, and Tom Shafer. Since we don't have a grant this year from the City, we may need to think about alternative ways to get our budget together. Jon noted that when the Bryan Park NA had their party, they contacted a handful of businesses and raised 1000 dollars; we might think of that as an alternative to the grant. Because it is a popular event, we hope the politicians will come. We need to invite the County as well as City representatives. We need to have more Herald Times information to get the word out about the event.

## WEBSITES FOR NEIGHBORHOODS

The website has run into a few bumps, John Grigutis has been spending a lot of time cleaning up and making everything work. If your NA has a website that you like, we can contact the city so they can create the record, and we can take it from there and redirect it from this site. The city still owns the website, and here is some things to start thinking about for each neighborhood; they need to have a gmail address and a box account. There will be more information available as we get closer to getting the websites up and running.

CURRENT PLANNING ISSUES- there has not been any activity over the past year.

SWITCHYARD PROJECT- Dave reported that the Redevelopment Commission has an accepted offer on Wee Willies, which will be used as access to the switchyard park; the cost was around 400,000 dollars, and has been family owned. The west side of the switchyard, south of McDoel, is owned by the City, so there is already an area that will provide access to the west of the area. The bond issue has been approved, so the City now has funding to develop the Switchyard Park.

CERTIFIED TECH PARK- Dave reported that the city has a proposal for the property just south of 11th Street; the proposal is from Flaherty and Collins, and includes upscale townhouses, as well as a plan to rehab the existing structures as places for tech companies to move into. It will include meeting rooms, public areas, a public park of from 1/2 to an acre, plus a parking garage, 319 underground parking spaces, and apartments. The total cost is estimated at between 40 and 42 million dollars, and they will pay half a million annually in taxes, now the city receives no value and taxes. As soon as it goes into private hands it will be taxed. Jon asked how the outcome will be tracked so that it is what is now proposed. Dave responded that the letter of intent outlines the plan, but it must go through regular zoning approvals, and planning.

BLOOMINGTON HOSPITAL REUSE PLAN- Jon noted that the input CONA gave to the committee last month was very helpful, they have rescheduled the public meetings; there will be two meetings, the first on October 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 7 in the IU Hospital's Wegmiller Auditorium, and the second on October 14<sup>th</sup> in City Council Chambers from 5:30- 7pm, before the Council meeting.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

McDOEL GARDENS - Elizabeth Cox Ash told the group about a party, the Fall Festival Dinner, in the McDoel neighborhood. It will take place on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and is open to all of Bloomington; part of Madison Street will be closed off, and they are asking people to bring food to share. The gathering will take place from 6-9pm at 905 S. Madison Street.

BRYAN PARK NA- At the corner of Henderson and Hillside, there is a house that has been sold to a developer from LA. Mark Cornett is working with the developer, who wants to build apartments for wealthy students.

EASTSIDE- Judy Berkshire noted that in the Eastside neighborhood, they are experiencing many break-ins that have neighbors on edge, and they are wondering about a Neighborhood Watch program. Several members offered suggestions, including sending emails out to remind people to lock their doors, take common precautions concerning your car, don't leave valuables where they can be seen, turn on porch lights, put in motion detectors, and report any criminal activity to the police.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.