

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, October 21, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:07, and introductions were made.

Attendees: John Kennedy, Spicewood, John Grigutis, Don Granbois, Blue Ridge, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Jan Sorby, Jon Lawrence, Bryan Park, Sandi Clothier, Near West, Judy Berkshire, East Side, Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Paul Ash, McDoel Gardens, Tom Shafer, Park Ridge East, Beth Rosenbarger, Open Streets, Bethany Emenhiser, City of Bloomington HAND Department, Carrie Winkel, Crescent Bend.

The minutes were reviewed and it was noted that Carrie Winkle's name was misspelled in the body of the minutes. The motion to approve was made by Paul Ash, and second by Jan; minutes were approved unanimously.

The treasurer's report was reviewed, and Elizabeth noted an issue with a check that was written on the Green Acres account. The check was to pay a contractor for work done for the NA, and given to the NA representative; the check was written about six weeks ago, for \$40.00, but has not been cashed. Judy Berkshire volunteered to look into this issue and get back with Elizabeth on it. The motion to approve was put forward by Cynthia, and seconded by Paul; the motion carried unanimously.

Bethany Emenhiser is here to talk with us about her new position at the City; she has taken Nancy Hiestand former position of Preservation officer for the City. Bethany explained that she is from Indiana, grew up near Fort Wayne, and attended St. Mary's College in South Bend before doing graduate work at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Historic Preservation. She has been to several Neighborhood meetings, and met with some neighborhoods that are considering applying for Conservation District status; she is also talking with them about the various programs HAND has for home rehabilitation. She added that the Courthouse Square Historic District goes to the City Council on November 10th for approval, and that tomorrow, on October 22, there will be an evening meeting, from 4:30-5:30 to go over the guidelines. They are currently negotiating with the County Council concerning their questions regarding controlling regulations, and working as well with the County Commission.

Other topics Bethany brought to the group included the 5th Annual Cake Contest (takes place in spring and involves community participants creating cakes in the form of buildings or historic features. They are also working on initiatives to do educational outreach to a younger demographic by way of social media, so are moving the HAND Dept into the 21st Century, see the hashtag Handbloomington. Asked whether all the property owners were ok with the proposed designation, Bethany said that they had really great attendance from large property owners, as well as both County and City commissioners. A Highlight draft is on Preservation page (on the City's website), with an owners checklist, with different departments for people who are doing things to their property, including an alley survey for additions on the rear. Bethany added that she wrote her master's thesis on alley use, and will be presenting that paper at the National Trust conference this November. The CONA group thanked Bethany for coming to speak to the group this evening.

Beth Rosenbarger came to talk with CONA about Open Streets. She reminded us that although she is a member of the Transportation and Planning Department, her involvement with Open Streets is outside of her work for the City. Beth gave an overview of the Open Streets concept: Open Streets involves the temporary closure of streets, usually on Sunday, with various activities in the streets. Some cities use this as a place to simply use the street for whatever they want, for instance, in Bogota Columbia, every Sunday over 100 kilometer of streets are opened up for people to just

walk and gather. Here, in the US, there is more programming and planned activities, including walking, biking, hula hoop; it's a community event, a chance for people to meet each other. She added that nothing is for sale, everything is free, it's not about making it into a money making opportunity. Instead it's a chance to meet your neighbors, have a safe space to encourage walking and biking. Historically, we used to walk in the streets, playing with kids used to happen regularly in the US. There are over 100 events like this in the US now, and it is gaining in popularity. It also has to do with community health; roads are a public space, the number 1 public space, so when we design them with a tiny sidewalk and a large street, it is not a safe place. But a street can accommodate a range of users, including families with strollers, and a reading corner for kids needing a break from the activities. Open Streets is looking to do more, the first 2 we got the event together, but now we are looking for neighborhoods to ask for it, and to put it on when you are excited about it. Don Granbois asked if they saw this as mostly downtown events. Beth said that they are not set on having it downtown, they want to get more people to know about it. Kids will love this, so then it would be good to have it in suburban areas. They are getting more community partners. Jon thought that it would be a good way to highlight your neighborhood, for people shopping for neighborhoods. Beth noted that Prospect Hill had a Neighborhood picnic after the event. And Beth said, some neighborhoods try to look for areas where people do not feel comfortable to transform. Them with an event. Beth can be reached at bethrosenbarger@gmail.com, and added that she would come to your NA this fall and winter if a NA is interested for next year. Elizabeth Cox-Ash added that there were so many great volunteers who came with the Open Streets event in McDoel, and there were many things for kids. Bethany also suggested that Historic Preservation tours work well with the Open Streets concept.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS-The Nominating Committee, composed of Jan Sorby and Cynthia Bretheim, brought forward the Slate of candidates: Elizabeth Cox-Ash to continue as Treasurer, John Kennedy as Vice Chair, and Don Granbois, as Officer At large.

Don addressed the group to say he wondered if he was still able to be a member of CONA now that he is going to be moving soon to a condo. A discussion followed, and it was agreed that Don was fine being elected even though he may not represent a neighborhood soon. In any case, he does still live in Blue Ridge, and so is currently a member of a neighborhood association. The vote was called, no others offered their names for consideration, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Report of the CONA Party committee: John Kennedy, Tom Shafer, Jon Lawrence, and Sandi Clothier.

John Kennedy gave a summary of the subcommittee meeting; the Party will be held on Jan 25, the 4th Monday in January. We have talked about how to collect names at entrance; it can give information but can cause bottleneck, and we are looking for a better system? A discussion followed on the merits of collecting names of guests. The next discussion item involves raising money for the event, if every neighborhood donates one or two nice items for a silent auction, we can raise the money for next year's event. It can be a piece of art, or something from a business or hair salon, a massage, or other item. Jon noted that when Bryan Park asked for items, they received things from 20 different businesses, and everything sold, netting them \$1000. We would like to have the Photo Booth again this year, and have a commitment from Lucy Schaich for this year's Party. And we would like to have more publicity ahead of time this year, letters to the Editor, maybe something in the Homes Section, as well as postering. We also talked about having music at the event, possibly a Harpist, and Sandi will follow up on that and report back. Other ideas and thoughts from CONA members would be very appreciated; some questions, should we have prizes, what other ideas do people have?

Neighborhood Hero Award - It was suggested that we honor Carrol Krause for all she has done for neighborhoods through her long running series in the HT in the Homes Section. All agreed that we should designate Carrol the recipient of the Neighborhood Hero Award.

Neighborhood Websites- next Monday we will have a meeting in the Dunlap Room. We will need to set up accounts for the NA, get us logged into our accounts, bring images for banner, show how to edit and post, change image, how to add photos,

GPP/ Tech Park - no action

Bloomington Hospital - only 4 or 5 people came, committee agreed needed to be rethought

Neighborhood Issues-

John reported that the House of Poker has been tamped down a bit, there have not so many problems this week, however, one of the disturbing things that has happened recently has been threats against those who are upset by the issues there. There have been twitter posts saying that someone is “going to get your family”. Calls to IU have not been fruitful, it was noted by Sandi that there was a Dean here in early fall or late spring who works directly with the interaction between the students and the community, and that perhaps she would be more helpful.

Tom Shafer noted that an issue that the NA had been working on for 4 or 5 years was finally resolved, with a sidewalk that needed to be connected; the NA celebrated the city and Marty Spechler who was able to get the sidewalk work done.

Carrie Winkel mentioned the lack of response the Crescent Bend neighborhood has gotten regarding the promises that were made, but not followed through on, for the 17th St. area. There was general consensus that this is an issue that should be pushed, and asked if she had called the City about it. Paul will be at the next CAC meeting, and said he would look into the situation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08