

# Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

## Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, November 18, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:34, 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, Ryan Conway, Andrea Avena-Koenigsberger, Hour Bloomington Timebank and Bryan Park Neighborhood.

Jon asked for a change in order to the agenda in order for Ryan and Andrea to speak with us about a new Bloomington Initiative that they are involved with called "Hour Bloomington".

The new initiative, *hOurbloomington*, is a Timebank; Ryan and Andrea introduced the group to this new project in Bloomington, by giving us a visual tour of their website. They explained that this is an old concept rendered in a new way; the basic concept is that everyone's time is treated equally, whether its raking leaves or painting a fence, "if I go to do something at your house for an hour, I can ask someone else to do something else, you don't necessarily have to do for the same as I did for you". An example given is that someone, who was out of town, asked for someone to watch their rabbit and cat, and was given a time credit, which made the asking much easier. It doesn't have to be inside your home, it could be outdoors, it could be to have someone help you with something, so can meet each other's needs as equals. The idea is that there are no more throw away people, everyone can contribute and everyone can ask for assistance with something. The Timebank *hOur* program works with two locally and nationally; *hOurbloomington* is the software we are using, there is also *hOurworld*, which is a national database, so you can ask for someone's help all across the county, and even the world, in other words, services rendered here can be connected around the world. The website keeps track of everything for you. Each person sets up their own profile, there is an orientation before anyone is able to get into the Timebank, so there is privacy from the general public. There are orientation sessions at the Library, you can look it up on the Facebook page for information when the next Orientation session will take place. We do not do background checks, this is all part of the responsibility of the individual, but we have a policy against anonymity; the background check in some areas causes a false sense of security.

A discussion followed about the particulars of the Timebank program, and Andrea and Ryan said they would be happy to come to anyone's NA to explain the program further. More information can be obtained by emailing [info@hourbloomington.org](mailto:info@hourbloomington.org), or checking out the Facebook page for the next Orientation session.

Approval of minutes; the minutes of October's meeting were reviewed and Cynthia Bretheim motioned for approval, Don Granbois seconded, the vote to approve was unanimous.

Approval of Treasurer's report. Elizabeth noted that with last month's election we needed a new signer; the IU credit doesn't require minutes anymore, so she just has to bring in the documents asking for a

new signer for checks. Another issue, a missing check, has been taken care of. Jan Sorby motioned to approve, and John Kennedy provided the second, the vote was unanimous for approval.

Courthouse Square Historic District- The vote by City Council to approve the Courthouse Square as a Historic District will take place next week. A discussion of the importance of the Courthouse Square to Bloomington, and to the community brought a general consensus to express CONA support for this. A vote was taken to approve the language of a letter of support, motion was made by Jan Sorby, and second by Cynthia Bretheim; the vote was unanimous in support.

Jon gave a report of his discussion with Mayor Kruzan about support for CONA. The Mayor's office has designated \$2000 to CONA for education purposes for the next year. We will be working with Adam Wason, the Deputy Mayor, on a MOU. This will allow us to bring in a speaker, either from outside or locally, or to have sponsor several education events. We will discuss this in more detail at December's meeting.

CONA Party- We talked last time about having a silent auction, we need to communicate with each neighborhood that we would like at least one or two items that can be used for the Silent Auction for the CONA party. As a sponsor of CONA party fund, this would be a tax deductible donation. A short discussion followed; the party committee will be meeting prior to next month's meeting.

The question has been raised in the past, about whether we should we be charging dues for CONA. A discussion of the pros and cons of this idea followed, and it was decided to continue the discussion at a later time.

Website- John Grigutis reported that seven neighborhoods have an active website, up in one form or another. It is hopeful that they can be up and running for the Party so we can highlight them at that time.

Current Planning Issues, the Growth Policy Plan and the Certified Tech Park, were not discussed in detail. There has been no meeting of the group for the GPP, and David was not at tonight's meeting, although he was quoted in the paper regarding the Tech Park. The Bloomington Hospital committee also has nothing new to report, all those who are currently heading up committees will be replaced by the incoming Mayor.

Neighborhood Issues- It was noted by Paul Ash that the City is very concerned with the issues along 17th St. in the Crescent Bend neighborhood, because the street is going to be inundated with heavy traffic when the overpass is complete, and the need for improvements is extreme. Cynthia Bretheim noted the lack of a sidewalk along Kinser, between 17th & the Marsh store; there is no berm and no shoulder, so walking is very dangerous. Bill Milroy noted that another sidewalk is needed on Indiana up to the Stadium.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm