

Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA)

Monthly Membership Meeting

John R Hooker Room, City Hall, March 16, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:06pm, and introductions were made. **Attendees:** Jon Lawrence, Jan Sorby, Bryan Park, Pam Gladish of the City of Bloomington Police Dept., Elizabeth Cox-Ash, Paul Ash, McDoel Gardens, Bill Milroy, One NorthEast, Lisa Tinsley from Area 10 on Aging, Cynthia Bretheim, Prospect Hill, Tim Mueller, Elm Heights, Don Granbois, Windermere Woods, John Kennedy, Spicewood, Dave Walters, 6th and Ritter, Sandra Clothier, NearWestSide.

The minutes of last month's meeting were reviewed, and approved unanimously: the motion to approve, Don Granbois, second, Paul Ash.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Cox Ash reviewed the expenses from January's CONA Party; \$100 more was spent on the ballroom this year, and catering was also \$100 more expensive. These were the only changes from last year's event. Motion to approve by Cynthia Bretheim, Jan Sorby offered the second, vote to approve was unanimous.

Area 10 Agency on Aging - Lisa Tinsley explained that Area 10 is a private nonprofit organization that offers solutions, connections, and resources for people, matching volunteers to seniors. The goal is for seniors to be able to live safely in their home, with help for things like grocery shopping, gardening, light housekeeping, and just friendly visiting as well as grief issues. Lisa explained that Area 10 is looking to neighborhoods for volunteers to help seniors with these tasks, to become "caring companions" and has come to CONA to help spread the word. She explained that within neighborhoods, identifying seniors to determine if they have unmet needs, and then encouraging volunteers to help with these tasks is the goal of Area 10; the agency also has some grant money for vacuum cleaners, yard supplies, and other necessities.

A discussion followed about the particulars of the program, and some ideas for working with other organizations, like Open Streets. Jon offered to send the information about Area 10 to the neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Resource Officer (NRO) Program - Pam Gladish, of the Bloomington Police Department, attended the meeting to talk about this new program. It's a new voluntary program for Police officers to become more a part of the neighborhoods they work in. They want to start this program, which is a mirror to downtown resource officer, where police officers would take part in gatherings of the neighborhoods, go to scheduled Neighborhood Association meetings, and other issues such as dealing with issues of abandoned cars, monitor or mediate disputes between neighbors, etc. The idea is that they become a part of the neighborhood, and are seen out more. These are day shift officers, and it's a voluntary program, they would not be getting paid overtime. They might be dealing with loud parties, and teaming with HAND, to write tickets for parking in yards, trash, over occupancy. They are going to try and meet with HAND during the little 500. They would like to figure out how to get things done without hiring additional officers.

There was a lot of interest from the CONA members, especially those in areas with a large student population. It has been difficult to get HAND to address some of these issues, so people were pleased to see new initiatives being brought forward.

Committee Reports

Education Committee- Technology Committee- Jon mentioned that there will be a new basic training session for the websites for neighborhoods, right now the planning is for the 5th and 22nd of April. This is a really basis session for those who are interested in getting their neighborhood websites up and running with our new format.

Current Planning Issues- Jan said that no one has heard anything from Planning about the UDO, or any part of the process; there is a new Plan Director as of yesterday.

Bloomington Hospital- Jon Lawrence and Jan Sorby are on one of the committees, but all of the Committee heads are gone, since the new administration came in, so there is nothing happening right now.

Certified Tech Park- Dave Walters gave a report on the CTP; the west side of the park is designated for affordable and senior housing, John Bender one of the people proposing residential apartments. Dave noted that the new Mayor came to the Redevelopment Meeting, and told the committee that 10th will stay as is, this will free up more money for other aspects of the development. They are pursuing the selling of the old IU Press building. The Mayor said the City will retain ownership of the old Showers Dimension Mill and is hoping to get the historic work done soon: the big empty lot is where job growth has to happen, but the two proposals, both of apartment buildings, will have to be massively reworked before being accepted.

Neighborhood Issues

Old NorthEast NA- Bill Milroy told the group that Adam Wason, acting head of Public Works, was invited to talk about the brick streets within the neighborhood. Bill also asked us to consider supporting the League of Women Voters.

Spicewood- John Kennedy noted that the Poker House is gone, they moved at the first of year.

Bryan Park –Jon Lawrence informed the group that on June 26, Henderson, from Grimes to Allen, will be shut down to allow for a street party, the proposal is from noon to four on Sunday.

Cell Tower- a 3rd spot that would be close to other neighbors is being considered instead of the one proposed for inside Cascades Park, which is having the effect of pitting neighbors against neighbors.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm