

Rochester's Neighborhood Resource Center

RNeighbors

Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods

Rochester Minnesota's Neighborhood Resource Center

Vision

RNeighbors works toward a future in Rochester when community life is rooted in neighborhood networks that nurture citizen involvement for positive community change.

Mission

RNeighbors empowers citizen leaders to create sustainable neighborhood networks that promote a vibrant, healthy and livable community.

Board of Directors

Mark Bilderback
Natalie Brown
Jeff Ellerbusch
Michael LaPlante
Ahmed Makkawy
Caitlin Meyer
Bob Nowicki
Michon Rogers
Michael Scharenbroich
Jason Schilling
Bob Sixta
Aaron Stelpflug
Paul Wilson

Staff

René Jones Lafflam
Executive Director
Ashley Borgschatz
UM Work-Study Student

1421 Third Ave South East
Floor 1
Rochester, Minnesota
55904
507.529.4150
www.RNeighbors.org

Neighborhood Leader Focus Group (notes attached)

January 28, 2014

Agenda

Welcome and Introduction

- What are you most proud of that your neighborhood has accomplished in the past year?
- What do you see as a challenge that your neighborhood will have to work through in 2014?

What resources neighborhood leaders would like? (Small groups)

Neighborhood resources that are available/possible

- Board 101 (Effective meetings, Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, etc.)
- A Citizen's Guide to Influencing Local Land-Use Decisions
- Building Leadership Capacity
- RNeighbors Neighborhood Building Toolkit
- Other

Mayor's Neighborhood Council Concept

- Is this something needed/wanted?
- Location and frequency of meetings
- Is there a desire for neighborhood training? If so, what topics/issues would neighborhood like?
- Membership requirements, if any?

Next Steps

Event Partners



Welcome and Introduction

What are you most proud of that your neighborhood association has accomplished in the past year?

Folwell

- Elementary school
 - Neighborhood provides money for help with gardens and crosswalk
- Neighbors who care

Cimarron

- Street Mural
- Community garden in city park

Historic Homestead

- Neighbors taking care of each other
- Community flower garden
- Mini-library

Washington

- Pride and ownership
- Good communication
- NNO turnout

Slatterly

- Revitalized
- Arts in the Avenue
- Movies in the park

Kuzky

- Trails, access
- Changing one-way streets
- Housing prices gone up
- Environmental achievement award

Friends of Indian Heights Park

- Saving park
- Bring Indian culture back

Eastside

- Website
- Revamped bylaws /election
- Mediation process
- More involvement of neighbors

Sunnyside

- Neighbors as friends/ family
- Cleaned up areas (Hardees, 52, 63)

Northrop

- Relationship with Samaritan Bethany
- sharing resources

Stone Barn Estates

- NNO is a hit
- Social events such as wine club

What do you see as a challenge that your neighborhood will have to work through in 2014?

Cimarron

- How to get people back involved
- Crime

Friends of Indian Heights

- Sustainable volunteer involvement

Historic Homestead

- Zoning changes

Kutzky

- Future development-fits/complements
- Planning and support of city
- Adequate zoning
- Marketing/ celebrating neighborhoods

Eastside

- Coming up with plan that is supported by neighbors
- Neighbors are empowered
- Better communication
- Soliciting input
- Proposed development by DMC should involve neighborhoods
- Better communication
- Neighborhood integrate diversity

Northrop

- Business in scale in residential
- Parking and traffic
- No parking lots
- Old properties taken down

Sunnyside

- Communication
- Taken over by downtown
- How to find out about DMC

Washington

- Having the First Homes program back (to focus on revitalizing single family homes)

Mayor

- Diversity and welcoming

General

- Repository of resources
 - E.g. veteran's needs, seniors in their homes, tutoring, mentoring

What resources would neighborhoods like to see in 2014?

KPNA

- Paid staff (time and money)
- Tools for communicating with other neighborhood leaders
- Photos (Professional) of neighborhood

Sunnyside

- More active volunteers
- Playground
- 9th Street SE changed back to 4 lane
- Information/involvement in land use changes
- RNeighbors website of resources so that each neighborhood isn't 'reinventing the wheel'
- Building Safety inspection on a regular basis

Washington, Indian Heights, Cimarron

- Police communication
- Home investment (First Homes)
- Volunteer connection
 - To help with upkeep
- Connect to local government
- Neighborhood leader group to share stories and resources

Historic Homestead

- Volunteers/Neighbors
- Communication w/ city departments
- Homeowner assistance
 - Pride of ownership
 - Special circumstances
 - Age, illness, finances

Northrop

- Additional membership
- Talent sharing (time traders)
- Programs/speakers for meetings
- \$ for repairs
- Community development block grants for neighbors
 - Banners
 - Home improvement-painting/landscaping
- Legal-zoning/building code/rental assistance

Folwell

- Regular meeting/space
 - Restaurants/ hotels
- Improved communication
 - Emails, phone trees, flyers, coordinating with school/city
- 2nd street development-engage neighbors in planning
- "Welcome to Rochester" sign

Eastside

- Improvement to website
- Regular city-wide neighborhood leader meetings
- Improve RNeighbors website so neighborhoods can communicate
- Need help with inviting neighborhood involvement and respectful communication
- Marketing our neighborhood
- Help with bringing neighborhood together, respectful conversations
- Coming up with a development plan to that the entire neighborhood supports

Attendees (not pictured Mark Bilderback)



Back Row (right to left): Mike Henry, Eastside, matre24@gmail.com; Mari Flemming, Eastside, marifleming@yahoo.com; Bob Sixta, Folwell, bobsixta@sixtainsurance.com; Patricia Allende de jung, Eastside, bluespanishlady@gmail.com; Haley Johnson, Folwell, haleyj625@gmail.com; Tim Schmitt, Northrop, schmittts@yahoo.com; Bob Nowicki, RNeighbors, bobnow@charter.net; Donna Cunningham, Northrop, donnacunningham01@gmail.com; Dick Denny, Sunnyside, dennyr123@q.com; Kelly Dunagan, Sunnyside, ktdpugs@aol.com; Mary Jo Majerus, Eastside, healingtouch.rmn@gmail.com; Barb Hudson, Friends of Indian Heights Park, barb.hudson@live.com; Mayor Brede, abrede@rochestermn.gov; Ashley Borgschatz, RNeighbors, borg0211@umn.edu; Kellie Mueller, Kutzky Park, kellie@bellaraehomes.com; René Lafflam, RNeighbors, rene@RNeighbors.org. **Front Row (right to left):** Marilyn Meyer, Cimarron, mvmeyer@hotmail.com; Kathy Brobst, Homestead, ; Eileen Zirbel, Homestead, ezmn@earthlink.net; Lyle Plumhoff, Washington, lplumhoff@msn.com; Caitlin Meyer, RNeighbors, meyer.caitlin@co.ilmsted.mn.us; Michael Scharenbroich, RNeighbors, Michael Scharenbroich, mmscharenbroich@gmail.com; Annie Henderson, Kutzky, annie@cwaroch.com.

Next Steps

It was unanimous among attendees that the concept of a Mayor's Neighborhood Council was one that should be explored with the first meeting to occur on **Tuesday, April 22, 5:30-7 pm**, at the Rochester Area Foundation. Donna, Mike H. Barb, and Lyle volunteered to assist René in thinking through details for that meeting. Additional details will be communicated with the group at a later date.