

# 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.

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## Agenda: Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods Agenda

Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 5:30-7 pm • Rochester Area Foundation Board Room

### Welcome

**Introductions** (please limit comments to 2 mins or less)

- Name
- Neighborhood Association you're representing
- How do you feel future zoning will impact your neighborhood?

### Guest Presenter

**Mitzi Baker, Director of the Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department**

- How will zoning affect Rochester neighborhood associations in the future?
- How can neighborhood associations best/most effectively work with zoning issues?

### Handouts

- League of Minnesota Cities "Planning and Zoning 101"

### Ending Discussion

- What is one key thing you learned from this meeting that you will put into use working with your neighborhood?

### Topics for upcoming Neighborhood Council Meetings

- Working with City and Accessing Government
- Taking Neighborhood Watch to the Next Level
  - Pooch Patrol
- Neighborhood Association case study presentation

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 21, 5:30-7 pm

### Dismissal

### Initiative Partners



### Mission of the Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods

To strengthen connections between neighborhood leaders and give neighborhoods a collective voice.

## **Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods Meeting Summary**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 5:30-7 pm • Rochester Area Foundation Board Room**

### **Mission of the Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods**

To strengthen connections between neighborhood leaders and give neighborhoods a collective voice.

### **Attendees**

Richard Denny, dennyr123@q.com, Sunnyside; Kelly Dunagan, ktdpugs@aol.com, Sunnyside; Michelle Weinsen, mweise01@yahoo.com, Kutzky; Mike Henry, matre24@gmail.com, Eastside; Nancy Slocumb, phroebe@gmail.com, Historic SW; Eileen Zirbel, ezmn@earthlink.net, Homestead; Kathy Brobst, kjaerbro@gmail.com, Homestead; Brian Rognholt, brognholt@charter.net, Slatterly; Barb Hudson, Hudson.barb@charter.net, Indian Heights; Mary Jo Majerus, healingtouch.smn@gmail.com, Eastside; Lyle Plumhoff, lplumhoff@msn.com, Washington; Dave Edmonson, Edmonson\_dave@yahoo.com, Kutzky; Dottie Hawthorne, dothaw1@gmail.com, Historic SW; Dawn Littleton, litt0129@umn.edu, Indian Heights; Christine Schultze, ecschultze@gmail.com, Historic SW; Tim Schmitt, schmittts@yahoo.com, Northrop; Gail Kinsey, gchebig@hotmail.com; Terry Campbell, tcampbelloffice@aol.com; April Sutor, aprilsutor@yahoo.com, Homestead Trails; Mike LaPlante, mlaplante@aol.com, Eastside; Heidi Mestad, mestad.heidi1@mayo.edu, DMC; Mitzi Baker, Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department, baker.mitzi@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US; René Lafflam, rene@RNeighbors.org, RNeighbors.

### **Welcome**

#### **Introductions**

#### **How do you feel future zoning will impact your neighborhood? (MCN Members)**

##### **Historic SW**

- Opportunity and importance for community involvement
- Present and future zoning issues such as the 5<sup>th</sup> on 5<sup>th</sup> Challenge
- To ensure a vibrant city core with vibrant surrounding neighborhoods. As a ripple effect occur DMC can work with RNeighbors and the City Comprehensive plan to align future goals.

##### **Northrop and Slatterly Park**

- To preserve the current feel and character of the neighborhood without stifling the growth of the city

##### **Washington**

- Restricted development

##### **Sunnyside**

- Zoned commercial
- Like to maintain single family homes
- Involvement in decisions

##### **Eastside**

- Interested in how the bordering downtown neighborhoods will be effected
- When development occurs that it fits in proportion and style to the neighborhood
- Maintain single family homes
- Work with development for benefit of neighborhood as ripple effects occur

##### **Kutzky Park**

- Preserve the architectural treasures currently in Kutzky
- Maintain the character of the neighborhood
- Create a vibrant city core
- As a city we need to manage and plan for future growth
- See the need for more mixed use zoning, where the inclusion of stores and small businesses not only protect the homeowners/landowners property values, as well as being an overall health benefit to the neighborhood.
- How can zoning help neighborhoods? A need is for it to assist in weeding out properties that need demolition.

## **Indian Heights**

- Heritage should effect zoning
- In the past, those that have the gold rule. Hope that City zoning will not favor those with advantages like money, but instead be fair and balanced.

## **Historic Homestead**

- Preserve the romance of the neighborhood
- That the traffic and parking will be well planned out. Even if those things done appear to have an effect on outlying neighborhoods there will be ripple effects

## **Homestead Trails**

- The importance of trees

## **Guest Presenter**

### **Mitzi Baker, Director of the Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department**

(overview of comments, not a complete summary)

## **How will zoning affect Rochester neighborhood associations in the future?**

- Currently this Department is working on updating the City Comprehensive plan which was last written in 1978 when Rochester and ways of communication were very different. The plan will be focused on land use, transportation and fiscal solvency. Timeline is to have a plan by September of 2015 and to have a public forum with intelligent and informed dialogue on the future plan.
- The City Council and the Planning Department looks at the big picture of what is good for the City of Rochester and neighborhood leaders are caretakers of their living spaces, the area in their boundaries.
- DMC and the City Comprehensive Plan update effort are working together to work with those groups who are not usually engaged in community issues to ensure input is balanced for future generations.
- A mix of incomes in a neighborhood makes for a healthy balance.

## **How can neighborhood associations best/most effectively work with zoning issues?**

- If neighborhood associations want to make a difference in development processes they must be accurately informed and engage positively and proactively with their elected officials.
- Working with a neighborhood association through a development change is always a challenge, staff and department resources are stretched thin.
- As a community we need to learn how to be a welcoming community to embrace change. As our city grows we will have a surplus of jobs that we'll need people to fill in order to grow.

## **Ending Discussion (MNC Members)**

What is one key thing you learned from this meeting that you will put into use working with your neighborhood?

- There are many variables in the planning process that seem overwhelming to understand and work with
- Infill and development
- Why is DMC not funding Planning staff time?
- Let's make a plan to be proactive so that development doesn't just happen to us
- Appreciate hearing information. Concerted and focused effort working with the planning process takes time and focus, not sure if neighborhood volunteers have.
- Thank you for attending our meeting and talking to us where we are at.
- Summary to me seems that Planning and Zoning is understaffed but development will move fast. Council will have to deal with things as they come to them and neighborhoods must continue to be involved.
- It would be helpful to have more understanding of this process. Could there be a packet for developers with tips and contact information on how to work with neighbors?

**Ending Discussion** (continued from page 3)

- Change is going to happen, neighborhoods can be an active part of change and should make a roadmap.
- Condos are cost prohibitive, it is important to preserve Rochester's single family homes.
- Just wait and see what happens.
- Discussion and dialogue is important but action happen with the Council.
- Is there a group that keeps a pulse on development and discusses with the Mayor?
- Millennials are a large group that are happy change is coming to Rochester. Glad for community engagement to inform.
- Fiscal decisions will be made in the next five years, Planning Department needs additional staff to ride this wave.
- Initiate another Council on Neighborhoods meeting to work on current issues
- Planning website up to date. Possible PB insert on comprehensive plan updates.