

# 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  
Kelly Corbin  
Jeff Ellerbusch  
Michael LaPlante  
Ahmed Makkawy  
Mitch Moore  
Bob Nowicki  
Samantha Rossi  
Michael Scharenbroich  
Aaron Stelpflug  
Jesse Welsh  
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## Staff

René Jones Lafflam  
Executive Director  
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UM Work-Study Student

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## Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods (MCN) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 16, 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.

## Welcome

## Introductions

### Darrel Hildebrant, Rochester Police Department

- National Night Out, Tuesday, August 4
  - 236 registered parties last year - 60,591 pre-registered, goal of 65,000
  - #1 in population group last year
  - Register on [coptalklive.com](http://coptalklive.com)
  - Important to register for the national rankings and for the city to have a list of parties being held in the community
- Provided an overview of Pooch Patrol
  - 114 people have trained w/ 87% of the city covered by walkers
  - Trainings are available July 30 and August 27
- Bike registration program
- Crime alert handout
- Citizen's police academy (Sept-Nov) - registration open; only 22 people allowed
- Crime prevention unit is no longer in existence

### Bob Nowicki, Rochesterfest

- Rochesterfest, Saturday, June 20-Sunday, June 28
- Looking for volunteers
- 33rd year - A Walk in the Park
- Moved to Soldier's Field
- Family oriented event
- Non-profit information table
  - RNeighbors will have a table on Family Fun Night, Wednesday, June 24, that neighborhood associations are welcome to join in. A sign up sheet will be sent out by René.
  - Fun Activity Idea!! We can have a map of Rochester and have kids put a mark where they live and tell them what neighborhood they live in :)
- Worked with the neighborhood to determine the parade route - setup begins at 5pm
- Trolley will shuttle people to downtown
- IBM will bus employees down



Rochester  
Area Foundation



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**Abby Larson, Public Health, Social Host Ordinance (10 min presentation, 5 min questions)**

- Went into effect in May
- Looked at MN student survey data and found that most students got alcohol at parties and/or from friends
- Host ordinance regulates the environment in which alcohol is provided
- Majority of 11th graders don't drink, but of those that do, the majority binge drink
- Ordinance is a way to hold adults responsible for the environment
- Does: holds individuals responsible on property they own or lease, and you do not have to be of legal age to be held liable
- Does not: result in loss of property, is not enforceable in outside of Rochester or Olmsted county, apply to those not aware something is happening on their property
- Is a criminal liability
- Law enforcement sees it as an education opportunity for the community
- Idea of big New Year's Party for non-drinkers – Neighborhood focused?
- Only covers alcohol at this time - would like to extend to marijuana, etc.
- Holds all ages responsible, if they hold a party

**Achievements of MCN (since April 2014)**

- Increased communication between neighborhoods
- Speakers Bureau
- RNeighbors Neighborhood Grants
- Started positive conversations with the City about Planning challenges
  - "A Citizen's Guide – Working with the City Council & the Planning and Zoning Commission" is currently being edited by Randy Staver, City Council President. The final document will be posted on the City's and RNeighbors' websites and available at Council meetings.
  - City Ordinance 60.605 (Neighborhood Notification) is currently being rewritten and will come before the Committee of the Whole.
  - Discussion occurring within the City about modifications to the Public Hearing at the final plat stage before Planning and Zoning. Will come before the Committee of the Whole.
  - Big steps!

**Next Steps for MCN (30 mins)**

- Mayor's support as we move forward
  - Rene, ED of RNeighbors; Kelly, Pres of RNeighbors; Mike Henry, ESPNA; Jesse Welsch, Kutzky Park NA, met with Mayor - he will support as move forward; very happy with the stories of neighborhoods benefiting from the connections and learning from each other.
  - Question came up on approach. Specifics from meeting with Mayor Brede. Mike Henry shared the Mayor is supportive, but cautioned about thoughtfulness in what the MCN takes on. Example, from Mayor, of MCN signing letter on gated communities and reading it without his prior knowledge. He requests respectful dialogue with the group about any issues it comes out in support of. Not that he will veto it but would like the information prior. Discussion about how to keep the Mayor informed occurred and when needed, René will initiate a meeting with the Mayor and MCN representatives.
- Make an effort to be more strategic about what and how the MCN deals publicly with.
  - Example of MCN members attending COW in support of Ordinance as it will be presented.
- **Organizing Structure**
  - In the evolution and growth of the group it was discussed to add some structure to the MCN. The Organizing Structure (below) was proposed and discussed.
- **Strategic Goals**
  - Continue to establish good conversations and relationships with city staff and leadership
  - Create a template for neighborhood submissions to Planning and Zoning
    - Referral group, a spot for each individual neighborhood logo

- Neighborhood led workshops to celebrate your success and share the knowledge
  - Recorded and put online
  - An example: Slatterly Park NA could give a workshop on how they put on “Art on the Ave” or Washington could give one on “Neighborhood Engagement”.
- Implement portion of MCN meetings to have an update on City Council decisions

The group voted unanimously in favor of implementing the Organizing Structure as well as the Strategic Goals.

## Organizing Structure

### Name

Mayor’s Council on Neighborhoods (MCN)

### Mission

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

### Membership

- Two members from each registered neighborhood association will have voting rights. Attendance is open to all neighborhood volunteers.
  - Are votes a simple majority? Not decided on.
- Two designated members of the RNeighbors Exec. Board
- No officers wanted at this time. May revisit as group evolves.

### Meetings

- Large group will meet every two months on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:30-7 pm. These meetings will be supported by RNeighbors staff.
- Meeting summaries will be included on RNeighbors website and sent out to all Rochester neighborhood leaders via email.
- Committee Meetings will be designated by a large MCN group vote and will meet on their own without RNeighbors support and report back to large group.
  - Current workgroup can continue on its own, come back to large group and report at August meeting
- The name of the Mayor’s Council on Neighborhoods cannot be used to endorse or signed on anything without large group vote. As currently, neighborhoods can voice opinion on an issue on their own (for example: an opinion letter in the newspaper, signed the NE Neighbors).

**Upcoming 2015 MCN Meetings:** August 18, October 20, December 15 (each meeting is 5:30-7 pm)



### Attendees

**Back row (left to right):** Mike LaPlante, Eastside; Kelly Dunagan, Sunnyside; Julie Hodge, Homestead Addition; Eileen Zirbel, Homestead Addition; Richard Denny, Sunnyside; Mike Henry, Eastside; Mary Jo Briggs, Parkway; Nancy Slocumb, Historic SW; Barry Skolnick, Downtown & Historic SW.

**Front row:** Gail Kinsey, Kutzky; Sue Rain, Washington; Lyle Plumhoff, Washington; Brian Rognholt, Slatterly Park; Christine Schultze, Historic SW. **Not pictured:** Darrel Hildebrant, Police Department; Bob Nowicki, Rochesterfest; Abby Larson, Public Health; Jesse Welsh, Kutzky; René Lafflam, RNeighbors.