

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

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Staff

René Lafflam
Executive Director

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Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods (MCN) Meeting Notes

Tuesday, February 16, 5:30-7 pm • Custom Alarm Training Room

Mission of the Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods

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

Thanks to Custom Alarm for the meeting room, www.custom-alarm.com for more info Custom Alarm is a big sponsor of National Night Out in Rochester & happy to partner in neighborhood events.



Introductions

Front row: Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library & Speaker; April Sutor, Rochester Family Services, Homestead Neighborhood & Speaker; Dave Beal, Northridge Neighborhood & Speaker. Back row: Kelly Corbin, Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood & RNeighbors; Mary Jo Briggs, Parkway Neighborhood; Dennis Davey, Historic Southwest Neighborhood; Michael LaPlante, Eastside Neighborhood & RNeighbors; Dick Denney, Sunnyside Neighborhood; and Kelly Dugan, Sunnyside Neighborhood. Not pictured: René Lafflam, RNeighbors.

Policy of Sharing Neighborhood Contact info

- Because of growth in demand for Neighborhood association contacts info future contact info will be posted on RNeighbors' website and provided to city and county departments when asked
 - Current list will be sent out to NA leaders in February for updates. Neighborhood is responsible for ensuring their contact info is up to date

In the Shadow of Growth & In the City for Good – Dave Beal, Involved Rochester Citizen

- Loosely organized group formed in response to the growth of the city (but is not anti-DMC)
- First forum had 100 people with a series of speakers from government & non-profits, because of interest ongoing meeting and sub-groups have formed
- Three goals
 1. Informing citizens on local efforts and activities (newsletter, web and social media presence)
 2. Provide an opportunity for citizen engagement
 3. Influence the city in forms of citizen advocacy
- Eight Areas formed for interest groups to create actionable steps & meet separately:
 1. **Affordable Housing** Feb 8 7 PM United Way Bldg, 903 West Center Street Contact John Buhta john.buhta@smrls.org with questions
 2. **Social Justice** Feb 8 7 PM First Unitarian Church, 1727 Walden Lane SW Contact Julie Johns jajlegend@hotmail.com with questions
 3. **Living Wage** Feb 11 7 PM St Luke's Church, 1884 22nd St NW Contact Collette Sweeney teachcoke@charter.net with questions
 4. **Social Services** Feb 15 7 PM Congregational Church, 974 Skyline Dr SW Contact June Halvorson jhug9114@gmail.com with questions
 5. **Transportation** Feb 18 6:30 PM People's Food Coop, 519 1st Ave SW Contact Andrea Kiepe andrea.kiepe@sierraclub.org with questions.
 6. **Sustainability** Feb 18 3:30 PM Assisi Heights Contact Anna Richey anna@conservationminnesota.org with questions
 7. **Education** March 1 1:00 PM Rochester Public Library Rm A, Contact Helen Laack hsl2000mn@yahoo.com with questions
 8. **Historic Preservation** Contact Nancy Slocumb phroebe@gmail.com with questions
- Each sub-committee is formed and working differently, may be in conjunction with another local effort or independently working on efforts
- Neighborhoods can get involved by:
 1. Attending next large group meeting on March 10, 7pm, at Congregational Church UCC, 974 Skyline Drive SW
 - Presentation by Commissioner Kiscaden on Citizen Advocacy
 - Sub Committees will report out
 2. Attend a subcommittee meeting, info on groups available on Facebook
 - <https://www.facebook.com/events/1243104485718651/>
 3. People can engage in as little or as much as they choose!

Rochester Public Library Expansion – Audrey Betcher, Rochester Public Library

<http://www.rochesterpubliclibrary.org/my-rpl/expand>

- Strategic Planning process in 2012 focusing on Community Needs, not just functionality of library
- Programming attendance has grown over 1000% since 1995
- Established new spaces to focus on specific activities (Maker Space, Teenscape, Wellness Corner, etc)
- Reviewed relocation of library or library branches, these are some determining factors:
 - Multi-modal transportation options in downtown create access (car, bus, bike, or walking)
 - Branches would be smaller square footage with duplication, not expansion, of services
 - Less staff needed in a central location vs another branch
 - Logistics of finding an equitable second location in Rochester and land costs

- New Library Expansion Plans include:
 - Entrance will be accessible on 1st & 2nd floor, easier for skywalk entrance
 - Fix drive thru book drop off
 - Expansion in youth services area to encompass entire 3rd floor
 - Two floor sloped auditorium (281 seats)
 - Fourth floor for administration and staff logistics
 - Increase community meeting room space
- Cost \$55 million (increased \$23 million in two years with DMC impacts)
 - Multiple funders
- March 14th Rochester Public Library will go before City Council Committee of the Whole At 3:30
- Ask of Neighborhoods
 1. Invite Library staff to present at Neighborhood Association. Schedule via email at klemke@rochester.lib.mn.us
 2. Share information with neighborhoods who can contact their City Council members to share support

Neighbor's Helping Neighbor's – April Sutor, Family Service Rochester

- Focus to help keep seniors living in their homes longer by connecting neighbors to help senior citizen neighbors with the following:
 1. Home Safety Checks
 2. Transportation & Moving
 3. Friendly Visiting, companionship, assurance calls
 4. Care Coordination
 5. Caregiver Resources
 6. Educational Activities
 7. Chores
- Recruits neighbors in need and matches them with nearby neighbors in a secure way (background checks)
- Funded through grants
- Currently in Eastside Pioneer Neighborhood – looking to expand
- Ask of Neighborhoods
 1. Help recruit volunteers and direct them to call Family Services Rochester at 507-287-2010 or email ASutor@familyservicerochester.org
 2. Have a presentation at Neighborhood meetings
 3. Determine if this program is a good fit for your neighborhood (no cost for program)

Next MCN meeting: Tuesday, April 19, 5:30-7:00 pm, location TBD

Speaker: Aaron Reeves, City Clerk – Neighborhood Meeting Process in Development Review