

# Rochester's Neighborhood Resource Center

# RNeighbors

Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods

**Rochester  
Minnesota's  
Neighborhood  
Resource  
Center**

125 Elton Hills Drive NW



Room 240



Rochester, Minnesota



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www.RNeighbors.org

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## 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  
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Jeff Ellerbusch  
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Aaron Stelpflug  
Michael Walters

## Staff

René Halasy  
Executive Director

## Council on Neighborhoods (CoN) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 6, 5:30-7 pm • 125 Live, 125 Elton Hills Drive NW, Oak Room

## Mission of the Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods

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

**Attendees:** Tim Hawkins, Kutzky; Barb Hudson, Friends of Indian Heights; Mei-Ling Huie, Historic SW; Mike LaPlante, Eastside Pioneers; April Sutor, Homestead Trails; Eileen Zirbel, Homestead Addition; and René Halasy, RNeighbors.

## Welcome

- 125 Live is the new home of RNeighbors AND the Council of Neighborhoods (this group has met in 6 other different locations)
- Litter Bit Better, April 21 – 28, Registration opens March 7  
<http://www.rneighbors.org/help-make-rochester-a-litter-bit-better-registration-now-open-2018/>
- Building Blocks: Block Party Trailer will be available once weather warms up  
<http://www.rneighbors.org/building-blocks-neighborhood-party-trailer/> and Movie in a Box can both be reserved <http://www.rneighbors.org/movie-in-a-box/>
- Project Grant Application Deadline: Wednesday, March 14, 2018, at 5 pm
- New NA registering. Welcome to Quarry Hill West NA!

## Introductions

## Neighborhood Project Grants

### Project Grant Partners

- City of Rochester
- Park and Recreation Department
- SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, Olmsted County Public Health)
- RNeighbors

## Project overview, successes and lessons learned

- **Mei-Ling Huie, Historic SW NA, Grant: Street Sign Toppers**
  - Effort to brand their neighborhood and awareness of neighborhood association
    - 2016 used grant for marketing materials and had picnic asked neighborhood what they'd like to see and signage was top
  - Created a committee to share the project load and continue moving project forward. Was important for the success as all had stake in seeing it to completion.
  - Worked with Public Works to create process for getting sign toppers approved
  - Reached out to community for a designer to donate their time
  - Neighborhood voted on final designs
  - Communicated via facebook
  - Lessons learned: working on a designed project that needs neighborhood input took more time than was originally planned for, lots of tweaks happened to arrive at final product that all were satisfied with

**Council on Neighborhoods (MCN) Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, March 6, 5:30-7 pm • 125 Elton Hills Drive NW, Oak Room**

- **Eileen Zirbell, Homestead Addition, Grant: Creative Crosswalks and park revitalization**
  - Sidewalks in back of homes and crosswalks occur mid-block
  - Met with Traffic Engineer and City Council Rep
    - Had to have 80% of homeowners sign off on crosswalks
    - Revocable Permit approved by City Council
  - Foot prints and paw print stencils, relates to what neighborhood is active with
  - Painted 8 crosswalks, 28 volunteers (from 8-80 years old)
    - Communicated through email
  - Paint has held up really well through winter
  - Design was simple
  - Lessons learned: pick a month that wasn't so hot to paint
  
- **Tim Hawkins, Kutzky Park NA, Grant: Fitness in the Park (park activation)**
  - Wanted to brand their neighborhood as "Active"
    - In 2016 used grant to put up banners in park
    - Worked with Police and city to ban alcohol in park to address negative activities taking place there
    - Fitness in the park engaged with people in a positive way
  - 8 paid instructors and 2 donated sessions
  - Communicated via facebook and community instructors would tell their clients
  - Well attended by neighbors, as well as people from across city, up to 100 on one Saturday
  - Lessons learned: July is hot and water is important to keep people hydrated
  
- **April Sutor, Homestead Trails NA, Grant: Neighborhood Garden (grants from 2015 and 2016)**
  - Worked on changing city policy to allow their neighborhood garden on past construction dump site
  - Had to remove asphalt and enrich the soil
  - Planted garden and had a community harvest potluck
  - The next year planted fruit trees, rebuilt neighborhood sign, added mini library and bench that neighbors use to congregate
  - Last year the neighborhood picked theme of "Being Kool" – started with planting trees with city forester
  - Had a potluck to determine what to do with grant this year
    - Feel that apartment across the street from their neighborhood association boundaries are really in their neighborhood also. Want to include them.
    - Have experienced lots of turnover in past year and want to create experiences where people can interact and form relationships.

**Review grant goals and guidelines**

- These grants reimburse up to \$1,000 in costs for neighborhoods to complete projects that enhance a neighborhood's livability and involvement, benefit the entire neighborhood and promote a strong sense of community.
- These non-revenue producing projects can include, but are not limited to, identification signage, butterfly & rain gardens, native plantscaping and public art projects. Neighborhoods can take on several different projects but they must be bundled in one grant application.
- Don't let the word "grant" freak you out. Write to us what you'd like to do. We WANT you to succeed with your project. Please ask questions as they arise so we can assist in setting your neighborhood up for success.

Q/A on project grants

Adjourn

**Upcoming MCN Meetings**

- Tuesday, April 17, 5:30-7 pm

Neighborhood Project Grant Video (you may recognize some familiar faces!) <https://vimeo.com/252073993>