

# Rochester's Neighborhood Resource Center

# RNeighbors

Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods

**Rochester  
Minnesota's  
Neighborhood  
Resource  
Center**

125 Elton Hills Drive NW  
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Rochester, Minnesota  
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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

Kelly Corbin  
Taryn Edens  
Jeff Ellerbusch  
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Samantha Rossi  
Paul Sims  
Aaron Stelpflug  
Michael Walters

### Staff

René Halasy  
Executive Director

### Council on Neighborhoods (CoN) Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 • 5:30-7 pm • 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**(not listed in order of photo): Caitlin Doran, Slatterly Park; Kelly Ray Kirkpatrick, Eastside; Julie Hodge, Homestead Addition; Eileen Zirbel, Homestead Addition; Kelly Dunagan, Sunnyside; David Daugherty, Historic SW; Edward Cohen, Historic SW; Barb Virning, Northwest Neighbors; Mary Idso, Lowertown; Anavelia Sequra, Oak Terrace Parkside; Sandy Guyse, Lowertown; Helen Monsees, Folwell; Michael LaPlante, Eastside; Mark Orłowski, Lowertown; and René Halasy, RNeighbors.

### Welcome (5:30 pm)

- Overview of history of Council on Neighborhoods  
This group grew out of a Neighborhood Leader Focus Group that RNeighbors facilitated in January 2014. Eleven different neighborhoods were represented and participants indicated 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. The focus of this inclusive group would be to make connections between neighborhoods, as well as improved communication between city departments and leaders. Several years later the name was changed to Council on Neighborhoods and going forward will be meeting on a quarterly basis.
- In May five people from Rochester (3 RNeighbors and 2 NA leaders) attended the annual Neighborhoods USA Conference and brought back many ideas to share with NA leaders in future months.
- Be on the lookout for a survey that will include options for leadership training that will be given in partnership with the Mayor's office.

### Introductions (5:35 pm)

- Name and Neighborhood Association (NA)/Organization you're representing
- Share a positive neighborhood effort
- Share a challenge your neighborhood is facing

### Lowertown (Mary and Sandy)

- Recently rebranded from Northrop to Lowertown to reflect historical reference to their neighborhood
- Had neighbors join in planting 25 trees this spring as a Neighborhood Tree Grant
- Working on their Project Grant - sign toppers
- North Broadway redesign has been a challenge for both neighbors and businesses

## **Council on Neighborhoods (CoN) Meeting Notes** (continued)

### **Sunnyside** (Kelly)

- Formed an Activity committee, which is currently planning ice cream social and participated in neighborhood cleanup
- Searching for a new meeting space

### **Slatterly Park** (Caitlin)

- The association has been deliberate about making neighbors aware and getting their feedback on zoning changes taking place in downtown core
- Building outreach and working on updating email contacts

### **Northwest Neighbors** (Barb)

- Neighborhood transitions with new families moving in
- Urgent Care recently opened and hours are working ok with neighborhood traffic
- Continued frustration with development taking place in their neighborhood, not following agreements made when originally built

### **Eastside** (Kelly Rae and Mike)

- Working Slatterly Park NA on alternate side parking
- Working on Project Grant including doubling the size of garden plots and adding a bench
- Concerned about the drug paraphernalia that neighborhood Shell Station sells

### **Oak Terrace/ Parkside** (Anavelia)

- Newly registered NA. Welcome!
- Partnering with the UofM Extension to offer summer swimming classes

### **Folwell** (Helen)

- Alatus project and politics surrounding it has caused the once actively social NA to be fractured and mired in conflict and negativity
- Traffic by neighborhood Folwell School continues to get worse with traffic from 52 and multiple neighborhood construction projects
- Street parking has become an increasing problem with a large number of Airbnb and rentals. One house may contain 5 different drivers with cars parking on streets.

### **Historic SW** (David and Edward)

- Wonders how to get new people involved in NA
- Wants to focus on recruitment - In a rebuilding phase
- Feels involvement in City and Parks master plans is important but time consuming

### **Homestead Addition** (Eileen and Julie)

- Unique NA that has a sense of belonging
- Cohesive NA that when the call goes out people show up to participate for dog walks, Litter Bit Better
- Completed Project Grant historic signage for park

### **Guest: Mayor Kim Norton**

#### **Opportunities moving forward working with Rochester neighborhoods**

- Attempting to balance DMC growth with existing neighborhoods
- Has to submit Decision Packages to Council for budget decisions
- Keeping an eye out for different grant opportunities to assist neighborhoods including a Bloomberg/Harvard grant opportunity
  - Focused on social equity
  - Strong and safe neighborhoods
  - Includes intense work session on how to make change
- Desire to assist with neighborhoods resources
  - As different city departments evolve looking toward how best to support RNeighbors

Q/A

Adjournment

### **Upcoming CoN Meetings**

- Quarterly meetings. Next meeting Tuesday, September 17, 5:30-7 pm.
- Survey will be sent out determining future meeting topics, format and dates

## Council on Neighborhoods (CoN) Meeting Notes (continued)

### Summer Neighborhood Events

- **Safe City Nights**

The Rochester Police Department is launching a new community initiative, Safe City Nights. This opportunity for community engagement will include six gatherings, one in each ward of the City, during the months of June, July, and August. Each event will take place from 6-8 p.m. and will include free food and activities.

- June 4 – East Silver Lake Park – Ward 5
- June 18 – George Gibbs Elementary School – Ward 3
- July 2nd – Longfellow Elementary School – Ward 4
- July 16th – Ben Franklin Elementary School – Ward 1
- July 30th – Watson Field – Ward 6
- August 20th- Harriet Bishop Elementary School – Ward 2

- **Park the Arts**

The Arts and Cultural Trust, Rochester Parks and Recreation, RNeighbors, and the Civic Theatre are partnering in this project to activate neighborhood parks as centers for collective arts and social experiences by bringing entertainment and arts activities to parks.

- July 14 – Cooke Park – Six Mile Grove (Americana music)
- July 21 – Parkside Park – Rochester Arts Ensemble (music, dance and spoken word reflecting diverse artistic cultural traditions)
- July 28 – Slatterly Park – “A Brief History of Jazz, Blues, & Gospel”

- **forWARD Neighborhood Park Concerts**

The City of Rochester’s Music Department and Parks and Recreation Department are teaming up to get the community together this summer.

- July 3, 5 pm, Cooke Park
- August 21, 5 pm, Lincolnshire Park
- August 28, 5 pm, Withers Sport Complex

### Initiative Partner

