

Neighborhoods Council Listening Session

Breakout Room Minute Notes

January 26, 2021



Question 1.

What do you think the Neighborhoods Council will achieve in 2021 and beyond?

Breakout Room 1

- Being more neighborly among one another- The Being Neighborly vision for cities neighborhoods across the nation is that we become an “it takes a village” type of place where neighbors actively support each other in a way that fosters the highest level of livability for our city neighborhoods and sustainability for our neighborhoods.
- Increased communications /or 1 person who would be the designated liaison per each neighborhood

Breakout Room 2

- Mary Bundy: Each neighborhood has its problems & challenges. Being able to *help each other out*. Each association has its strengths, and conversations between them allow us to build each other up.
- *Canneth Lee: Excited! City officials don’t always know what’s going on in neighborhoods. Get a lot more info from people with boots on the ground. Each *block* can be drastically different. Many neighborhoods feel overlooked and getting people from neighborhoods involved helps.

Breakout Room 3

- hope to improve communication to problems throughout South Bend and approach the mayor’s office effectively to achieve goals and youth engagement”
- “disparity of resources in neighborhoods, an equalization of funding or distribution of resources”

Breakout Room 4

- Benefits of Continuity/Building a working relationship
- Concerned with the structure of the NA. (Independency, a way to voice concerns within the meetings, how this relates to the city.)

Question 2.

What does a successful Neighborhoods Council look like to you?

Breakout Room 1

- Funding, Educational pieces, active participation, technical assistance, services, and opportunities
- More AoK grants for the coming year of 2021 since it was a great success from previous years.

Breakout Room 2

- Housing. Preventing displacement of legacy residents. Sidewalks. Neighborhood visioning sessions for community-driven development. Reducing violence by building peace - support neighbors in gaining skills to support each other in community building and conflict resolution for proactive public safety
- Regarding Code Enforcement - I think this council can begin to reimagine how we approach issues. People most often follow laws not because they fear a ticket but because they believe it is the right thing to do.

Breakout Room 3

- “youth engagement would be healthy in the community”
- “representatives that are from a part of the neighborhood, engagement from streets that aren’t engaged, the council should be diverse and representative and also have geographic diversity”, block captains are suggested.

Breakout Room 4

- Understanding the relationship of the Neighborhood Council to the City & developing a smaller scale model of the Neighborhood Council for NA
- Neighbor Retention (specifically rehabbing homes for the elderly), people who usually participate in physical neighborhood association meetings not knowing how to work Zoom

Question 3.

What will it help you/your organization(s) achieve?

Breakout Room 1

- Access to more printing resources in color, as well as in quantity amounts that can be based on a monthly usage standard.
- Having more renters transitioning to homeownership

Breakout Room 2

- A conversation ensued about how to deal with old trees... Was a good example of something the NC can achieve—a platform to share ideas on specific topics.
- SB Tenant Association is a microcosm of the NC because they're in all the neighborhoods. Sees places in the city that are in desperate need of improvements. Those residents' voices don't get heard. The NC is a great opportunity to address that.

Breakout Room 3

- "help address public safety, and help residents feel comfortable and safe, give the impression that something is being done from the local government."
- "deeper connections when trying to solve different issues, connections with other neighborhoods, and will expand expertise, information sharing, and problem-solving capacity"

Breakout Room 4

- Structure of the Neighborhood Council
- Voice concerns such as sidewalk neglect, landlord education, homelessness within all neighborhoods

Question 4.

What challenges do you think the Neighborhoods Council should undertake?

Breakout Room 1

- Getting trash cans or some type of waste container for public areas within the neighborhoods, have volunteer's empty public trash containers if they can get them from the city.
- Have designated times in a year to go help the neighboring neighborhoods to help where there's a high demand of needs and volunteers. Also donating unused items among the neighborhoods so that items or resources get utilized and not wasted.

Breakout Room 2

- I want to acknowledge that I live in a neighborhood of privilege and my (our) voice isn't the most important in this forum. In our neighborhood the issues we most often see... 1) TRAFFIC with speeding be the key issue, 2) Crime (which is usually petty crime and property damage - but still matters to my neighbors even though we know the police are busy with more important things), 3) School quality, 4) Continued economic progress downtown AND throughout the entire city.
- Would like the NC to be able to look at ways in which Code Enforcement is only operating under their policies and procedures, which can sometimes be a stumbling point.

Breakout Room 3

- Youth Engagement/Safety, "Pre Covid officers used to go to neighborhood meetings" "Covid has done away with that"
- "build a relationship with officers in the neighborhood, introduce yourself to the officer", "relationship building with police officers will strengthen neighborhoods and the Council"

Breakout Room 4

- Making building/rehabbing houses affordable to promote homeownership, hopes to build a minimum quality of life for all neighborhoods
- Benefits of Continuity/Building a working relationship

Question 5.

How often do you think the NC should meet (i.e. monthly, quarterly, bi-monthly)?

Breakout Room 1

- Every two months to meet would be ideal since the neighborhoods meet monthly already.

Breakout Room 2

- Mary Bundy: Every two months
- Canneth Lee: Every quarter or 3rd month. Mary Malone: Wants a clearer idea of what we're meeting for.

Breakout Room 3

- "once a month"
- "once a month sounds reasonable", "annual meeting, some monthly meetings, in the beginning, Goal Setting"

Breakout Room 4

- No term limits

Question 6.

How long should representatives' terms of service be (examples: 1 OR 2 years)?

Breakout Room 1

- 1-year term with the possibility of 2nd-year renewal

Breakout Room 3

- annual meeting, some monthly meetings, in the beginning, goal setting

Breakout Room 4

- 1 per neighborhood for a two-year term (which can be renewable)
- Benefits of continuity/building a working relationship