



Neighborhoods Consortium Meeting Notes

JANUARY 5TH, 2022 –
4TH QUARTERLY MEETING

Facilitators:

James Mueller

Alkeyna Aldridge

Dominique Edwards

Evie Bauman

CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

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MEETING ATTENDEES

Representatives/Alternates:

Denise Wicker – Rum Village NA
André Northern – Near Northwest NA
LuElla Webster – Northeast Neighborhood Council
Patty Walsh – Northeast Neighborhood Council
Debra Applegate – Miami Village NA
Jason Isch – Monroe Park NA
Andrea Rogers – Near West Side NO
Donnie Rogers – Near West Side NO
Carrie Marks – River Park NA
Fred Teague – Southeast Organized Area Residents
Leslinda Wilson – Far Northwest NA
Baye Sylvester – Lincoln-Bendix Park NA

City Personnel:

(aside from facilitators)

Jordan Gathers – Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
Marty Mechtenberg – EEE Empowerment Specialist
Allie Dolz-Lane – Mayor’s Office Project Manager
Bobbie Deleu – EEE Project Manager
Brian Donoghue – Director of Innovation

Introductory Information

- Alkeyna Aldridge, Director of Engagement and Economic Empowerment
 - ❖ Reminder about the [Service Catalog](#), which includes assistance for a video conferencing platform (like Zoom).

Open-Floor Discussion

- What are the groups top concerns and how do they want to address them moving forward?
- Reminder that we took a “priority poll” at the first meeting, and the top 3 issues of concern were:
 - ❖ Grants for improvements & projects
 - ❖ Economic growth
 - ❖ Gun violence & public safety
- Leslinda Wilson (FNWNA)
 - ❖ Gun violence & public safety should be top priorities. Has noticed an increase in these issues in her community. The **process for communicating with police officers should be improved**. Sees a disconnect between dispatch and officers on the ground as well as between citizens and dispatch.
 - ❖ Marty Mechtenberg (EEE) **suggests having someone from dispatch attend an NC meeting**.
- Donnie Rogers (NWSNO)
 - ❖ Shared story of officers denying shots were fired and showing no interest in watching videos of proof from citizens. Open to visitors from the SBPD at an NC meeting, but in the end, *action* is more important than discussion.
 - ❖ Leslinda had an interaction with an officer who was empathetic and gave her a direct number. She is hopeful there can be change.
- LuElla Webster (NENC)
 - ❖ Has experience of SBPD claiming gunfire is fireworks.
 - ❖ Debra Applegate (MVNA) has had same experience.
 - ❖ Leslinda **suggested looking into sharing door and floodlight cams with SBPD**.
- Baye Sylvester (LBPNA)
 - ❖ **Suggests placing an emphasis on the mental health and wellbeing** of households affected by violence.
- Leslinda Wilson (FNWNA)
 - ❖ **Suggests Facebook group** to communicate and connect between neighborhoods. Just for NC members.

Neighborhood News

- Leslinda Wilson (FNWNA)
 - ❖ Still figuring out floorplan for duplex being built with grant money from the city.
 - ❖ Figuring out plans for 2022. Has asked around for gift cards from restaurants to pass out in neighborhood.
- Donnie Rogers (NWSNO)
 - ❖ Next meeting is 1/25 at the Civil Rights Center.
 - ❖ Have been focused on potential large development project and excited for city’s neighborhood plan.
- Jason Isch (MPNA)
 - ❖ Held caroling and hot cocoa in December—lots of fun.
 - ❖ Priority is recruiting more membership.
- Baye Sylvester (LBPNA)
 - ❖ Meeting next Thursday.
 - ❖ Have spoken with city council about a businessman who wants to build a service center in the neighborhood—the community does not want this.
 - ❖ Feeling marginalized because the city/county does not send people out to the neighborhood to see what the people want.
 - ❖ Concerned about traffic at certain locations.
 - ❖ Also needing to recruit more members. Interested in a **collaborative effort to canvass**.
 - ❖ Alkeyna Aldridge (EEE) reminds everyone that canvassing is one of the [Service Catalog](#) services.
- LuElla Webster (NENC)
 - ❖ Food pantry has been very active. Also, received a large donation and were able to supply coats and other winter gear.
 - ❖ Over 200 rounds of bullets went off in the neighborhood on New Year’s Eve.
 - ❖ Email Patty Walsh (patty@pattywalsh.com) if you’re interested in attending an NENC meeting virtually.

- Fred Teague (SOAR)
 - ❖ Also experiencing gun violence—have been brainstorming how to address this, especially concerning youth.
 - ❖ Believe a key is **providing alternative opportunities for youth to earn money**. Also, mental health support and living, positive role models.
 - Leslinda brought up importance of **providing transportation for youth to access opportunities**.
 - Baye brought up importance of providing positive examples and **including marginalized youth in the city's vision** for the future.
 - ❖ Progress on construction of the Southeast Community Center.
 - ❖ SOAR has a new webpage, with the help of EnFocus.
 - ❖ Hosting [Winter of Learning](#) events in collaboration with various local organizations. Education series on technology. Free!
 - ❖ Check out Bendable (<https://southbend.bendable.com/>)! Fred (teaguefrederick@gmail.com) is willing to meet with you to teach you the ins and outs.
- Carrie Marks (RPNA)
 - ❖ Volunteers sending out ~2,000 newsletters.
 - ❖ Christmas decorating contest.
 - ❖ Finalized t-shirt design. Will have design for kids and adults.
 - ❖ Concerns: Intersection at entrance to zoo gets so busy that people park in the neighborhood. Lots of children crossing. **Would like to see lights or some measures to mitigate**.
 - Mayor Mueller says there are plans to construct new parking lot.
 - ❖ **Would like to work with the city to improve the conservatory**.
 - Mayor Mueller says the conservatory is not owned by the city, but he's open to discussion about it.
 - ❖ Thinks Facebook group is a good idea.
- Debra Applegate (MVNA)
 - ❖ Difficulties getting people involved. Planning on developing a webpage and a newsletter.
 - ❖ Working on overview of neighborhood issues for the city.
 - ❖ Have had a couple of shootings in the last few months.
 - ❖ Recruiting volunteers to be "captain streetlight." To go around the neighborhood and document streetlights that are out.
 - ❖ **Long term goal: community center**.
 - ❖ If you'd like to attend virtual meeting, let Debra know (mvna2019@gmail.com).
- André Northern (NNN)
 - ❖ Held public safety meeting last fall to address neighborhood violence. Has been a mounting issue, but catalyst event was the death of a 19-year-old girl by shooting.
 - ❖ Have held lots of research-action meetings to determine how best to address.
 - ❖ Alkeyna suggested **André share details with the group about the event the NNN held**, for replication.

City News

- Mayor James Mueller
 - ❖ Optimistic we are a few weeks away from the end of this surge in the pandemic.
 - ❖ The pandemic is affecting gun violence, which is up in all major cities in the US.
 - ❖ Call to get the [booster](#) if you haven't!
 - ❖ On gun violence:
 - COVID wave has created a training bottleneck for new police officers.
 - Different moving parts of the SBPD. For example, those on patrol are always running around and might be less attentive to requests.
 - **Setting up a pilot program to have officers share bodycam feeds**.
 - **Trying to revive the neighborhood watch**.
 - ❖ There will be a push this year to replace all streetlights with LED bulbs.
 - ❖ Regarding the gas station proposed to be built in Lincoln-Bendix, do not trust promises in return for "not making a fuss" at city council.
 - Baye asked questions about zoning requirements for gas station developer.
 - ❖ Starting to develop a new comprehensive plan for the city.
- Evie Bauman (Director of Sustainability)
 - ❖ Introduced [Energy Assistance & Solar Savings Initiative](#). Now is the time to go solar, as funding is temporary.
- Dominique Edwards (EEE)
 - ❖ [Digital Engagement Toolkit](#)

- ❖ [Build the Dream](#) is the project to renovate the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. In-person public engagement sessions will be held at the MLK Center from 6-8pm on:
 - 1/10/22
 - 2/10/22
 - 3/10/22

Officer Elections

- Only one nominee for each position, so by default our new NC officers are:
 - ❖ President: Leslinda Wilson (FNWNA) leslindawilson@gmail.com
 - ❖ Vice President: Carrie Marks (RPNA) cmarks@sbcsc.k12.in.us
 - ❖ Secretary: Debra Applegate (MVNA) mvna2019@gmail.com

Thanks, and we'll see you in April!