



# Neighborhoods Consortium Meeting Notes

JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 –  
2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTERLY MEETING

## *Facilitators:*

James Mueller

Santiago Garces

Alkeyna Aldridge

Tim Corcoran

Dominique Edwards

Marty Mechtenberg

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MEETING ATTENDEES

***Virtually***

**Representatives/Alternates:**

*Denise Wicker – Rum Village NA*  
*Marilyn Gachaw – Lincoln-Bendix Park NA*  
*André Northern – Near Northwest NA*  
*Fred Greiner – River Park BA*  
*LuElla Webster – Northeast Neighborhood Council*  
*Patty Walsh – Northeast Neighborhood Council*  
*Debra Applegate – Miami Village NA*  
*Charlotte Pfeifer – 466 Works*  
*Jennica Liberatore – LGBTQ Center*  
*Stacey Odom – Odom Community Developers*

**City Personnel:**

*Michael Divita – Principal Planner*  
*Marlaina Johns – Deputy Director of Code Enforcement*

***In Person***

**Representatives/Alternates:**

*Mary Bundy – Howard Park NA*  
*Erik Johnson – East Bank Village BA*  
*Lynn Collier – LaSalle Park NA*  
*Fred Teague – Southeast Organized Area Residents*  
*Carrie Marks – River Park NA*  
*Margie Pfeil – Monroe Park NA*  
*Donnie Rogers – Near West Side NO*  
*Andrea Rogers – Near West Side NO*  
*Rodney Gadson – SB Tenant Association*  
*Leslinda Wilson – Far Northwest NA*  
*Viola Sims – Kennedy Park NA*  
*Harry Gatlin – Kennedy Park NA*  
*Baye Sylvester – Lincoln-Bendix Park NA*

**Guests**

(Kennedy Park NA held a meeting immediately before the NC meeting, and many of their participants joined. We do not anticipate so many guests at every NC meeting.)

*Kailin Rily*  
*Ray Thompson*  
*Mike Altenburger*  
*Cheryl Wilber*  
*Lucy Wigfall*  
*Sandy Combs*  
*Jasmine Brown*  
*Lisa DeBerry*  
*Jan Kimbrough*

**City Personnel**

(aside from facilitators)

*Elizabeth Maradik – Principal Planner*  
*Evelyn Bauman – Director of Sustainability*  
*Alix Underwood – AmeriCorps Member*  
*David Cholak – AmeriCorps Member*  
*Ryan Ryker – AmeriCorps Member*

### **Introductory Information**

- Mayor James Mueller
  - ❖ Common Council is seeking applicants for the Community Police Review Board.
    - Talk to your council person or apply [here](#).
  - ❖ Common Council Personnel & Finance Committee will be holding several meetings in the next 2 months.
    - Will discuss how to use American Rescue Plan funds for equitable recovery—neighborhoods will be a focus.
    - <https://southbendin.gov/department/common-council/standing-committees/>
- Santiago Garces, Director of the Department of Community Investment
  - ❖ Introduces idea of funding 3 high-impact projects in each neighborhood.
  - ❖ Rodney Gadson, South Bend Tenant Association
    - Is this funding meant for homeowners, or would renters benefit?
    - Alkeyna Aldridge, Director of Engagement and Economic Empowerment
      - Renters living in established neighborhoods would benefit, but we recognize neighborhood associations (NAs) currently only cover about 50% of the city.

### **Guiding Principles**

- Guiding Principles working group: Denise Wicker (Rum Village NA) and Stacey Odom (Odom Community Developers) convened several times to discuss this document, proposed by the EEE team for the NC’s structure.
  - ❖ Denise Wicker
    - Rather than a President, VP, and Secretary, they propose a governing committee of 5-7 people.
  - ❖ Stacey Odom
    - Highlights the “points system” already in the document, which states that NAs actively participating in NC will receive extra points when considered for grants through the city.
  - ❖ Denise Wicker
    - Would like a different NA to host each meeting.

### **Doodle Poll Results**

- Dominique Edwards, Engagement Specialist
  - ❖ We asked reps/alternates to vote for the 4 topics most important/urgent to them.
    - #1: Grants for improvements and projects
    - #2: Economic growth
    - #3: Tie between gun violence & public safety (closely related)

### **Service Catalog (SC)**

- Marty Mechtenberg, Economic Empowerment Specialist
  - ❖ All services are available to all participating organizations—some are monetary, and some add capacity.
  - ❖ Services that are not quite ready: Party Trailer, Public Art, and Neighborhood Demographics.
  - ❖ Rodney Gadson
    - How could the SC support the Tenant Association in outreach and community-building?
    - Marty Mechtenberg
      - The Party Trailer could support outreach events.
  - ❖ Santiago Garces
    - The goal is for more NAs to form. What methods could we use to “certify” NAs?
    - Mary Bundy, Howard Park NA
      - This is tricky, because each type of organizations present [NAs, business associations (BAs), and various other civic entities] has a different mission.
      - However, important because certification through the city gives an org. clout.

- Rodney Gadson
  - Any organization identifying as an association should have a resume.
- ❖ Carrie Marks, River Park NA
  - Signage is very important in fostering neighborhood identity and pride.
- ❖ Fred Teague, Southeast Organized Area Residents (SOAR)
  - Shares SOAR's efforts to bolster participation and encourages BAs to invest in nearby NAs.
- ❖ Reminder to groups eligible for the \$1,000 grant who are not in the city's system: fill and return W-9.
- ❖ Guest asks what happens if there is more than 1 NA in a given geography.
  - Santiago replies we need a certification system for this reason.

## Neighborhood Plans

- Tim Corcoran, Planning Director
  - ❖ Planning team working on plans for NEN, NWS, KP, and Rum Village "extended."
    - "Extended" in order to cover gaps where residents aren't represented by a neighborhood.
  - ❖ These Neighborhood Plans are amendments to the city's comprehensive plan.
  - ❖ Elements of plan: infrastructure, housing, parks and open spaces, zoning and building types.
  - ❖ Use "neighborhood scorecards" to hold the city accountable for plan execution.
  - ❖ Have already engaged stakeholders, including community organizations, churches, lawmakers, etc.
  - ❖ Next phase is "public engagement" for residents—in-person workshops in each neighborhood.
    - See details on [together.southbendin.gov](https://together.southbendin.gov).
  - ❖ Denise Wicker
    - What do residents need to do to get recurring complaints addressed?
    - Alkeyna Aldridge
      - Important to share needs with the city, especially during neighborhood planning.
      - Reach out to Eric Horvath ([ehorvath@southbendin.gov](mailto:ehorvath@southbendin.gov)), Director of Public Works.
    - Mayor Mueller
      - Rebuilding Our Streets plan: <https://southbendin.gov/streetsplan/>
  - ❖ Rodney Gadson
    - Reinforces need for better lighting in LaSalle Park. Has spoken to council members—no success.
  - ❖ Lynn Collier, LaSalle Park NA
    - Reinforces problem of street conditions and asks what can be done to get the city to prioritize it.
    - Mayor Mueller
      - City focusing on the "worst first." Check out PASER ratings here: <https://southbendin.gov/streetsplan/>
  - ❖ Fred Teague
    - SOAR created a heat map to examine lighting situation—discovered often times bulbs are out or light is blocked by canopy.
  - ❖ Mary Bundy
    - Timeline for Rebuilding Our Streets?
    - Mayor Mueller
      - All the streets with PASER rating of 1 or 2 will be completed within 3 years.
  - ❖ Mayor Mueller
    - Lighting: Essential to report light outages, because many lights are contracted through power company, and the city needs to follow up with them. Call 311!
  - ❖ Viola Sims, Kennedy Park NA
    - How can we ensure resources go to frequently trafficked streets?
    - Mayor Mueller
      - Plan addresses streets neglected for decades, not just main arteries.
  - ❖ Leslinda Wilson, Far Northwest NA
    - What are the concrete steps to report light outages?
    - Mayor Mueller
      - Do not give up! Call 311 repeatedly.
  - ❖ Marilyn Gachaw, Lincoln-Bendix Park NA
    - The city implemented a beautification project near her house, and now it is unkempt/overgrown.
    - Mayor Mueller
      - We have taken on a lot of infrastructure in recent years without a plan to maintain it. We are learning. We want to get better.

**Neighborhood News**

- Dominique Edwards
  - ❖ EEE team holding Pop-Up Markets at the corner of Linden Ave and Birdsell St in Kennedy Park.
    - August 1, September 5, October 3, 1-5PM
  - ❖ 3rd round of Acts of Kindness mini-grants, \$250 each, application available at [southbendin.gov/eee](https://southbendin.gov/eee).
- Rodney Gadson
  - ❖ SB Tenant Association is working with council members on lead initiative. Plan to hold an event.
- Fred Teague
  - ❖ SOAR hosting back-to-school event with speakers, food, and info booths on August 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Guest
  - ❖ KPNA hosting community social on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Carrie Marks
  - ❖ RPNA holding t-shirt competition and partnering with church to do “neighbors helping neighbors.”
- Santiago Garces
  - ❖ DCI and VPA holding Small Business Launchpad, 10-7 on July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Charles Black Center.
- Leslinda Wilson
  - ❖ FNWNA working on developing a single-family house and looking for minority contractors.
  - ❖ Asks that we consider altering negative language about renters.
- Baye Sylvester
  - ❖ LBPNA is concerned about a full-service gas station to be built in their neighborhood.

***Thanks, and we'll see you in October!***