



Neighborhoods Consortium Meeting Notes

OCTOBER 6TH, 2021 –
3RD QUARTERLY MEETING

Facilitators:

James Mueller

Alkeyna Aldridge

Santiago Garces

Jordan Gathers

Jitin Kain

Eric Horvath

Dominique Edwards

Marty Mechtenberg

Alix Underwood

CITY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

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MEETING ATTENDEES

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
Margaret Pfeil – Monroe Park NA
Mary Bundy – Howard Park NA
Sharon Hawkins – 466 Works
Stacey Odom – Odom Community Developers
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
Rodney Gadson – South Bend Tenant Association

City Personnel:

(aside from facilitators)

Bobbie Deleu – EEE Project Manager
Brian Donoghue – Director of Innovation

Introductory Information

- Alkeyna Aldridge, Director of Engagement and Economic Empowerment
 - ❖ Representatives should report back to their association membership about what takes place at NC meetings.
 - ❖ Initially included business associations and CDCs in the group to facilitate communication.
 - Have received feedback that separate lines of communication should be formed for these groups.
 - In the future, will be providing separate avenues of engagement/funding...
 - Business associations will be paired with the city's Business Development Team.
 - CDCs will be paired with the city's Neighborhoods Team.
- Santiago Garces, Director of the Department of Community Investment
 - ❖ Neighborhood plans update:
 - Continue to build plans for the Northeast, Near West Side, Rum Village, and Kennedy Park neighborhoods.
 - Next year, the city will start the process for 1-2 more neighborhoods.
 - The goal is to start plans for 1-2 neighborhoods each year moving forward.
 - ❖ Starting next year, the city will renew its [comprehensive plan](#), which sets a vision for the next 15-20 years.
 - ❖ Call to action:
 - If your NA is interested in a neighborhood plan, send an email to planning@southbendin.gov.
 - This should include a brief description of your priorities and why the city should choose you.

Neighborhood News

- LuElla Webster (NENC)
 - ❖ The Robinson Center had a beautiful dedication on September 21st.
 - It was attended by Father Jenkins, Father Malloy, and the mayor, and over 100 people in total.
 - ❖ Trader Joe's is open.
 - ❖ A new developer wants to build a 114-apartment complex across from Trader Joe's.
 - The NENC has discussed this and is not in favor—they are exploring actions.
 - ❖ There was a homicide on Washington and Notre Dame Avenue.
 - Want to give a shoutout to the SBPD, who have been dedicatedly patrolling the neighborhood.
- Fred Teague (SOAR)
 - ❖ Groundbreaking on 9/28 for Southeast Side Community Center being built by United Way and 466 Works.
 - ❖ Pastor Taylor has students from Riley High School building a home.
- Rodney Gadson (SB Tenant Association)
 - ❖ Partnered with SB Libraries for the Lead Innovation Program and the Rental/Energy Assistance Programs.
 - ❖ First events will be at Tutt branch on 10/15 from 4-6pm and on 10/16 from 10:30-12:30pm.
 - ❖ Then at the Western branch on 10/22 from 4-6pm and 10/23 from 10:30-11:30am.
 - ❖ Working with city and county councilmembers to create a lead ordinance.
- André Northern (NNN)
 - ❖ Lead event at the NNN community center on 10/22 from 5:30-7:30pm.
- Carrie Marks (RPNA)
 - ❖ Partnered with the RPBA and the city for a neighborhood cleanup.
 - ❖ Food and hygiene drives, collecting supplies outside Martin's and at various locations along Mishawaka Ave.
 - ❖ Michiana Christian Community Church is sponsoring a coat drive.
 - ❖ Started a grant writing committee.
 - ❖ Halloween and Christmas lights contest.

City News

- Mayor James Mueller
 - ❖ Please mask up, get vaccinated, and get a booster when you're eligible!
 - ❖ Hope to break ground on MLK Center renovations next year.
 - ❖ Thank you to those who filled out budget surveys and attended budget meetings.
 - Significant resources being allocated to street repair and safe affordable housing in neighborhoods.
 - ❖ SBPD has an officer shortage—working on recruiting. Strategy to make SB safer is not policing-only.
- Jordan Gathers, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor
 - ❖ Introduction and elaboration on the vision and process for MLK Center renovations (Dream Center).
 - Call to participate in upcoming planning meetings and events.

- Commitment to breaking ground by the end of 2022.
- ❖ Question from Marilyn Gachaw (LBPNA)
 - Will investments be seen on major streets surrounding the Dream Center, like Orange St and Olive St?
 - Answer: This is still under consideration and should be a part of the planning discussion.
 - The mayor adds this is one of the benefits of working on the KPNA plan simultaneously.
- Dominique Edwards, Engagement Specialist
 - ❖ Last [Linden Avenue Pop-Up Market](#) postponed to 10/10 from 1-5pm.
- Marty Mechtenberg, Economic Empowerment Specialist
 - ❖ Reminder to use the Service Catalog, full of useful services (website, t-shirts, canvassing, etc.)!
 - You can find a link to apply for services at southbendin.gov/eee.

Organization/Leadership of the NC

- Alkeyna Aldridge, Alix Underwood, Mike Altenburger
 - ❖ Thank you to Stacey, Denise, and Fred G. for participating in the Guiding Principles working group.
 - ❖ A concern that surfaced in working group meetings:
 - The leadership structure outlined is very traditional and could be exclusive/lead to cliques.
 - ❖ Overview of the leadership structure was presented (slides included in follow-up email).
 - ❖ Members split into breakout groups to discuss the proposed leadership structure.
 - ❖ Overall, members were in favor of adopting the structure, but a few concerns were raised:
 - Some wanted to ensure that those on the executive committee would be from neighborhood associations only.
 - Some said we should not focus solely on structure and lose site of the social aspect of the group.
 - Some would have liked to see a different, less-traditional format.
 - ❖ A roll-call vote was carried out:
 - The group voted to accept the proposed leadership structure for the time being, with a majority of 12 votes yes and one vote no.

Public Works

- Jitin Kain, Deputy Director of Public Works
 - ❖ Four major functions of the Department of Public Works:
 - Streets and sewers
 - Engineering
 - Utilities
 - Solid waste
 - ❖ Curbs and sidewalks
 - Adjacent property owner is responsible for maintenance, but the city has programs to assist:
 - Annual Council Allocation Program
 - [Curb & Sidewalk Reimbursement Program](#)
 - Grants and special projects
 - ❖ Street lighting programs
 - Light Up South Bend
 - [Lamppost Program](#)
 - Streetlight outages and repairs
 - AEP lights (typically wooden poles) can be reported directly to [AEP](#).
 - City lights (typically decorative poles) can be reported to [311](#).
 - ❖ Alley maintenance
 - Request alley grading by calling [311](#).
 - ❖ Traffic concerns
 - Report traffic concerns by filling out a form on the city's website or calling 311.
 - Two types of requests: emergency and non-emergency.
 - ❖ The slides used by Jitin were shared with the group in a follow-up email.
- Questions
 - ❖ Rodney Gadson (SBTA)
 - Why does it seem traffic calming measures are implemented on the East but not the West side?
 - Response: There is a lot of need (150 requests) and limited funding. There will be additional funding allocated to this from the American Rescue Plan. When a request is received, data is collected to prioritize streets.
 - ❖ Mary Bundy (HPNA)

- Are lampposts available if there is no tree lawn?
- Response: Lampposts go on private property, not the tree lawn.
- ❖ Fred Teague (SOAR)
 - What is the process for addressing the sidewalk issues caused by tree roots? Is there an option to have trees removed and better trees planted?
 - Response: When plans are made, the city forester comes out and determines which trees are causing problems and removes them.
- ❖ Marilyn Gachaw (LBPNA)
 - Is it possible to determine which streets need speed bumps?
 - Response: Clarification that speed *humps* are what you see on streets. As stated before, the city has a prioritized list of requests. The city analyzes the situation and determines whether speed humps or some other measure is more appropriate.
- ❖ Donnie Rogers (NWSNO)
 - Acknowledging there is a police staffing issue, can the police do something about the speeding issue if we know the 150 hot spots?
 - Response: Emphasizes that yes, police are short-staffed. Public Works works with the SBPD to address speeding hot spots, but it is still a challenge.
- ❖ Mary Bundy (HPNA)
 - Is it appropriate to report drainage problems?
 - Response: Yes!
- Eric Horvath, Director of Public Works
 - ❖ There is significantly more funding for traffic calming measures.
 - ❖ Encourages neighbors to look into/apply for [Low Income Household Water Assistance Program \(LIHWAP\)](#).
- Denise Wicker (RVNA) expresses gratitude for the group that put in new sidewalks on her street—very respectful.
- Rodney Gadson (SBTA) also expresses gratitude on behalf of William Ellison tenants for new light.

Thanks, and we'll see you in January!