

Rochester's Neighborhood Resource Center

RNeighbors

Providing tools to grow GREAT neighborhoods

**Rochester
Minnesota's
Neighborhood
Resource
Center**

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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

- Mary Althoff
- Mark Bilderback
- Kelly Corbin
- Jeff Ellerbusch
- Tara Freimund
- Tim Hawkins
- Michael LaPlante
- Ahmed Makkawy
- Mitch Moore
- Bob Nowicki
- Judy Ohly
- Samantha Rossi
- Aaron Stelpflug
- Ross Tew
- Paul Wilson

Staff

René Lafflam
Executive Director

Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods (MCN) Meeting Notes
Tuesday, May 3, 5:30-6:30 pm • RNeighbors Conference Room

Mission of the Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods

To strengthen connections between neighborhood leaders and give neighborhoods a collective voice.

Welcome

Shorter meeting time (1 hour)



Introductions

Front row: Ahmed Makkawy, Slatterly Park and RNeighbors; Barb Virning, Northwest; Kelly Dungan, Sunnyside; Barbara Schafer, Slatterly Park and Art on the Avenue.
Back row: Christine Schultze, Historic SW; Mike LaPlante, East Side Pioneers; Richard Denny, Sunnyside; Mary Kujanson, Northwest; Lyle Plumhoff, Washington; Dennis Davey, Historic SW.
Not pictured: Mitzi Baker, Olmsted County Planning Department and René Lafflam, RNeighbors.

Developer Informational Meetings Text Amendment

Guest speaker: Mitzi Baker, Olmsted County Planning Director

For local development projects, an informational meeting is held and includes hearing notice. These meetings are to be informal and set prior to a public hearing. By ordinance statute, these meetings are to remain informal and informational in nature. It is to be a transparent space to bring up concerns. Responsible parties are present at these meetings to help both document and answer questions and concerns. There is often an expectation that solutions will be ironed out at these meetings.



Mayor's Council on Neighborhoods (MCN) Meeting Agenda
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Developer Informational Meetings (continued)

Dennis (SW)

If a developer concedes to a request, that's fine. These meetings aren't meant to resolve mandates, demands, etc.

Mitzi Baker

- Estimates about 50% of these informational meetings happen prior to a development project reaches the P&Z Dept.
- Suggests that adding notes to the public record by sending them in to the P&Z Dept. is the best way for them to be included in the packet sent to the 'decision makers'

Dennis (SW)

Neighborhoods are starting to get a bad name when it comes to new development" due to perhaps the demands brought up at informational meetings and hearings.

Mitzi Baker

- RNeighbors is a great resource. The city would certainly like to speed up the process for development projects but neighborhoods can bring up good points from those who are directly impacted.
- DMCC is a new level of city governance as it is comprised of several elected officials (Lt. Governor, City Council member, etc.). The DMCC is not always involved (comes in as advisory where needed) in the governance whereas City Council and the City of Rochester are the two required parties.
- Lobby City Council representatives diligently with any concerns and thoughts about prospective developments.

Christine (SW)

Would it be fair to ask to reconvene in a few months to see how the informational meetings are handled and how productive they are?

- Mitzi suggests a one year reconvene to allow for ample time to gather feedback and seeing impacts of change.

Mitzi Baker Closing Comments

- If a pre-development meeting happens, meet with a P&Z Dept. member about project details.
- Property owners within 500 ft. of proposed development are notified of meeting.
- Mentioned that the city of Rochester voluntarily increased the notice requirements to include property owners within 500 ft. or minimum of 50 homes of proposed development (vs. 350 ft. normally done elsewhere in MN).
- Suggested that a single point of contact for the neighborhood is also copied on meeting notice.
 - René will update list of neighborhood association leaders and send to Mitzi Baker to ensure the correct people have current contacts.

Next Steps for MCN

René will create a survey asking for future steps including meeting regularity and topics.

Group did want to continue meeting during the summer. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 5:30-7 pm. Location TBD.

Slatterly Park Neighborhood Association's Art on the Avenue

Barbara Schafer, Art on the Avenue Planning Committee

Saturday May 14, 9:30 am – 4 pm, 800 block of 7th Ave SE

Dismissal