



Planning, Development & Transportation

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Neighborhood Connections Neighborhood Representatives Meeting November 14, 2016

Josh Weinberg, co-project manager for Neighborhood Connections, opened the meeting and introductions were made followed by a brief overview of the program.

- A participant shared that a pilot program is being started called Transition Streets Pilot to help the City with the Climate Action Plan.
 - The participant explained that neighbors will meet to build a sense of community and to learn fun and easy ways to practice sustainable habits. A sign-up sheet was passed around for anyone interested.
- Clay talked about the timeline and how the program has evolved to where it is today as well as the research efforts that have taken place.
- Josh explained the goals of the program, the resources available and the next steps for moving forward.
- Patsi provided training on how to create an effective team and provided information on group dynamics. She talked about effective and ineffective teams/team dynamics.
 - Participants talked about the language in the way people speak to one another can help/hinder trust building.
 - Participants discussed the Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing of normal team dynamics.
- Patsi talked about ways to create success for groups such as being proactive, having conversations, appreciating differences, setting up ground rules, etc.
 - The group shared success stories. One participant explained that her HOA uses the thumbs up/down method to get a feel for the group.
 - Patsi explained that ground rules should be discussed in the beginning about how and when decisions will be made.
- A participant asked how to get conversations started within a group when leadership has not been established.
 - Patsi suggested to use the question about what you bring to the group and to ask if anyone has interest in being the leader. As well, she recommended that you ask what people's thoughts are about how to organize.
- A participant stated that most HOAs have bylaws and that is where you have to start your structure.
- A participant asked if there are guidelines for the way other cities are functioning and whether the group could get a list.
 - Josh stated that he can share the list, but he would like for the City of Fort Collins to make their own and shape it to what works best for us.
- There are also some great tools for those who are leads of Nextdoor.com.
- Patsi suggested the group check online to find starting points for discussions.
- One participant recommended a book called Group Wise that talks about some of the what-ifs and the tyranny of the one when trying to reach a unanimous decision.