LET'S TALK NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORS LEADING NEIGHBORS

City of Fort Collins

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Purpose of Meeting

Bring together neighborhood leaders to provide input in design and implementation for future Neighborhood Services Programs. Identify the needs of neighborhoods, from the leaders' perspective, and what they believe a strong relationship with the City looks like. Provide information and resources about planning neighborhood events and promote communication tools.

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CENTER FOR PUBLIC DELIBERATION

Dedicated to enhancing local democracy through improved public communication and community problem solving

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Neighborhood Services

- Code Compliance
- Neighborhood Development Review Liaison
- Community Liaison
- Community Mediation Program
- Restorative Justice
- Neighborhood Administration

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Your Unelected Guide for the Day

- Amanda Nagl, Neighborhood Administrator
- Program Administration: Neighborhood Night Out, Neighborhood Grants, Adopt a Neighbor, Neighborhood News
- Liaison: Neighborhoods and the City
- Conflict Resolution/Problem-Solving with Neighborhoods
- HOA, Landlord, Tenant and Other Trainings
- OD/Process Improvement Geek
- Observations this Year

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Schedule for Today

Introductions/Purpose/Schedule/Data Collected	9:15-9:35
How To: Turning Point and Demographics	9:35-9:40
Neighborhoods and Neighborhood Livability	9:40-10:05
Block Party 101	10:05-10:30
Nextdoor and Other Communications	10:30-10:35
Neighborhood Grants	10:35-10:55
Challenges and Neighborhood Level Engagement	10:55-11:10
Formalized Neighborhoods/City Relationships	11:10-11:20
Polarity Management Worksheet	11:20-11:45
Neighborhood Leadership Training	11:45-11:55
Wrap-Up: Complete Surveys at Table	11:55-12:00

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Data We Are Collecting

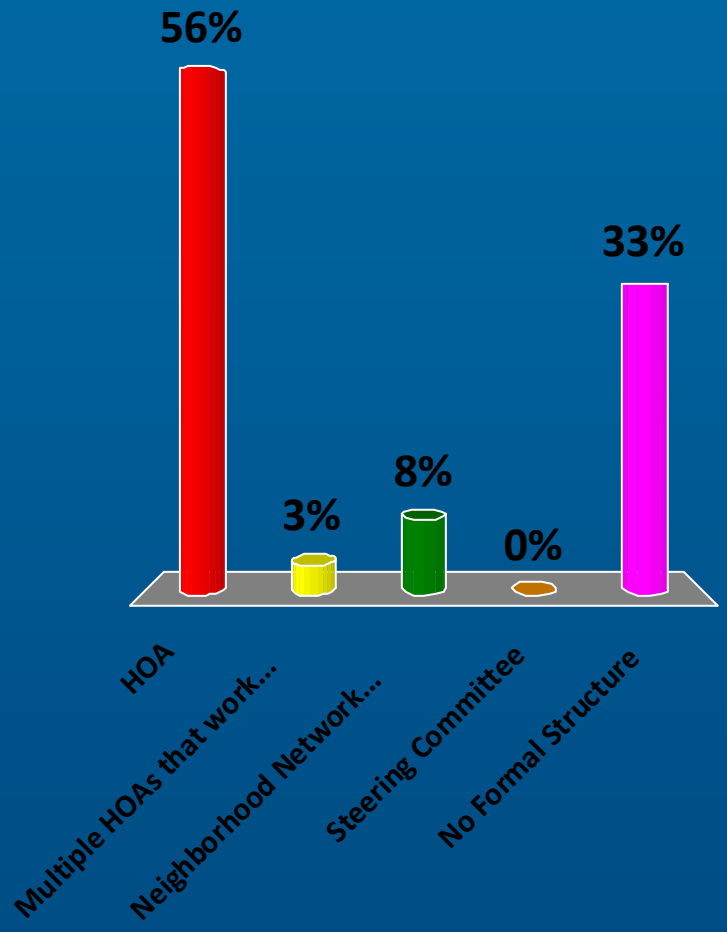
- Anything Written: We Will Compile It, Look for Themes and Group It Accordingly
- During Conversations: Recording Highlights
  - What is Said, Not Who Says It
- Turning Point: Totals Recorded, Pull Reports from Software After the Event—Aggregate Format
- Program Ideas and Process Improvement Opps
- Hopes, Dreams, Fears, Values, Priorities, Frustrations, Wants, Needs
- Common Themes

Turning Point Technology

- Clickers
- Please Don't Leave the Room with Them
  - No TV
  - No Video Games
  - No Power Point
- Have Fun, Engage, We Don't Know Who You Are
- Question Instructions Vary
- Your Last Answers Count—You Can Change Your Mind

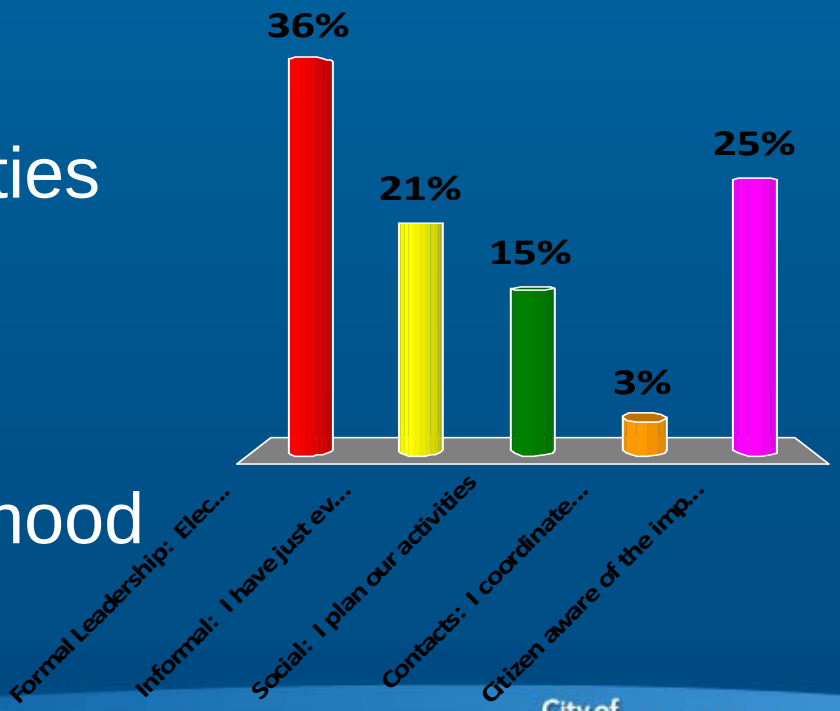
1. Which best describes how your neighborhood is structured (Choose 1)?

A. HOA
B. Multiple HOAs that work together
C. Neighborhood Network/Nonprofit Board
D. Steering Committee
E. No Formal Structure



2. Which category best describes your role in your neighborhood (Choose 1)?

A. Formal Leadership: Elected or Appointed
B. Informal: I have just evolved into the role
C. Social: I plan our activities
D. Contacts: I coordinate communication
E. Citizen aware of the importance of neighborhood



3. What are the three most important responsibilities of leaders in your neighborhood (Top 3 in Order)?

66 A. Maintain Common Properties

54 B. Plan Social Events

19 C. Organize Clean-Ups

64 D. Communicate Among Neighbors

60 E. Solve Problems Internally

41 F. Engage in Future Planning

35 G. Protect Interests of Neighbors vs. Outside Entities

27 H. Act as conduit between Neighbors and City

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What is "Neighborhood"?

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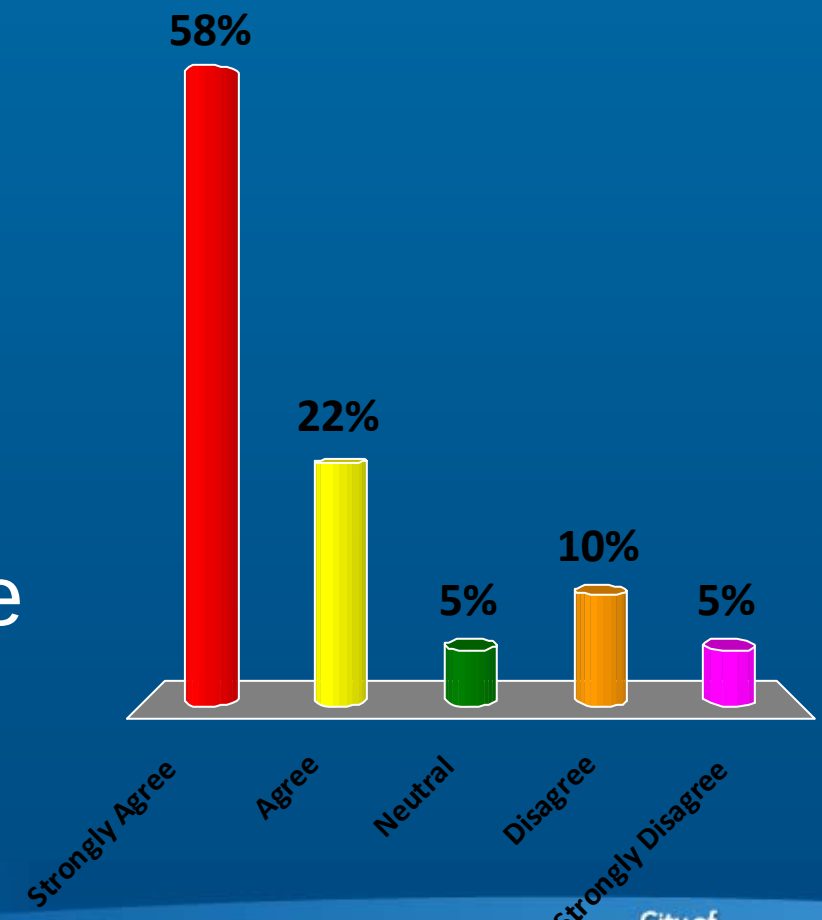
4. When you say “formal neighborhood structure”, I think of an HOA.

A. Strongly Agree
B. Agree
C. Neutral
D. Disagree
E. Strongly Disagree

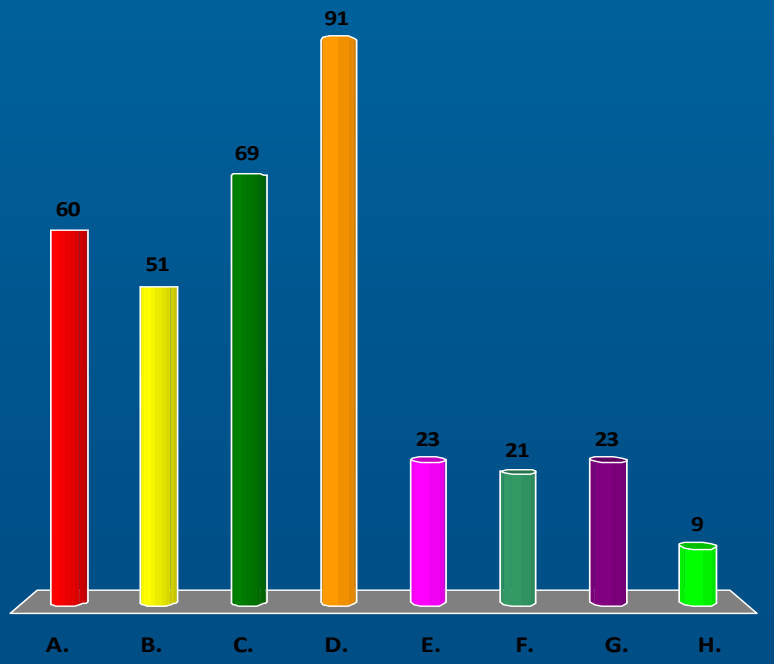


Neighbourhood

- Evidence of Groups of People in Place = Old as Humankind
- Spatial vs. Social parameters or Both
- Fort Collins Neighborhoods
  - Project Initiated in 2006 to Map Neighborhoods
  - Names Tend to Follow Major Developments in Area
  - Neighborhoods Typically Organized Around an Issue
  - Some Have Unofficial Self-Appointed Leaders
  - Steering Committees, Neighborhood Networks, HOAs
  - Large Size Variance

5. Of these categories, identify the top 3 that influence how you define your neighborhood (Top 3 in Order)?

A. Major arterials--they divide the City into neighborhoods
B. Social Networks—who I communicate with frequently
C. Distance-- I can easily bike or walk around
D. My housing development or group of developments
E. Neighborhood school(s)
F. Churches, Grocery Store or Market, Common/"Bumping" Places
G. Parks and Trails
H. Businesses we use—Dry Cleaner, Coffee Shop, Restaurants, Etc.



HOA vs. Neighborhood

- HOA (Home Owner's Association)
  - Formed by Developer
  - Pertains to Subdivision or Project
  - Responsible for Maintenance of Common Grounds/Amenities
  - Set Codes, Covenants and Restrictions to Govern Development
  - Members Pay Dues
- Neighborhood
  - Section of City with Common Identity

Block Party 101

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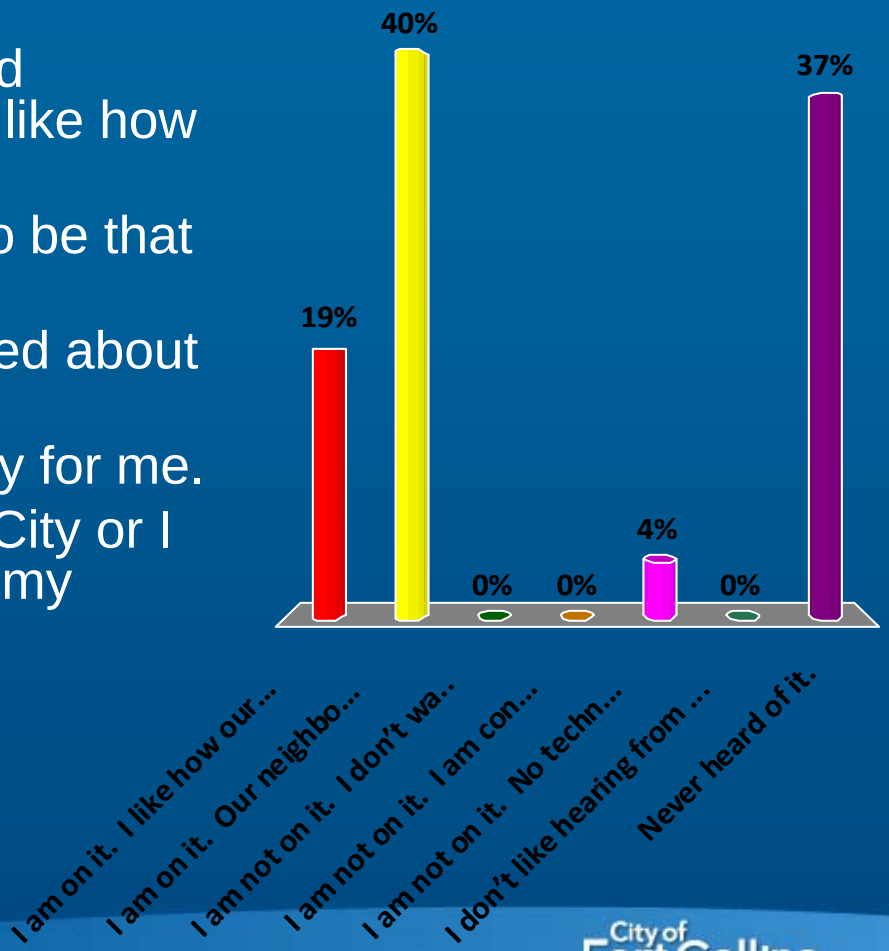
6. The following best describes my relationship with Nextdoor (Choose 1):

A. I am on it. I like how our neighborhood uses it.
B. I am on it. Our neighborhood participation is low or I don't like how we use it.
C. I am not on it. I don't want to be that connected to my neighbors.
D. I am not on it. I am concerned about security.
E. I am not on it. No technology for me.
F. I don't like hearing from the City or I am fearful the City can view my information.
G. Never heard of it.



Quail Hollow

Jason Hevelone

Nextdoor Lead

QH Resident for 17 years

QH Brief History

- Main developer was Jenson Homes
- Jenson initiated annual Pig Roast to foster a neighborly gathering (2014 was 25th year)
- Neighborhood developed many activities including annual garage sale, Halloween carnival, ladies bunko group, book club, Easter egg hunt, quilting group, neighborhood directory, etc.
- Communications facilitated through newsletter / block leaders → Yahoo Group → Nextdoor
- No Home Owners Association (HOA)
- Neighborhood already had a culture of cohesiveness and communication

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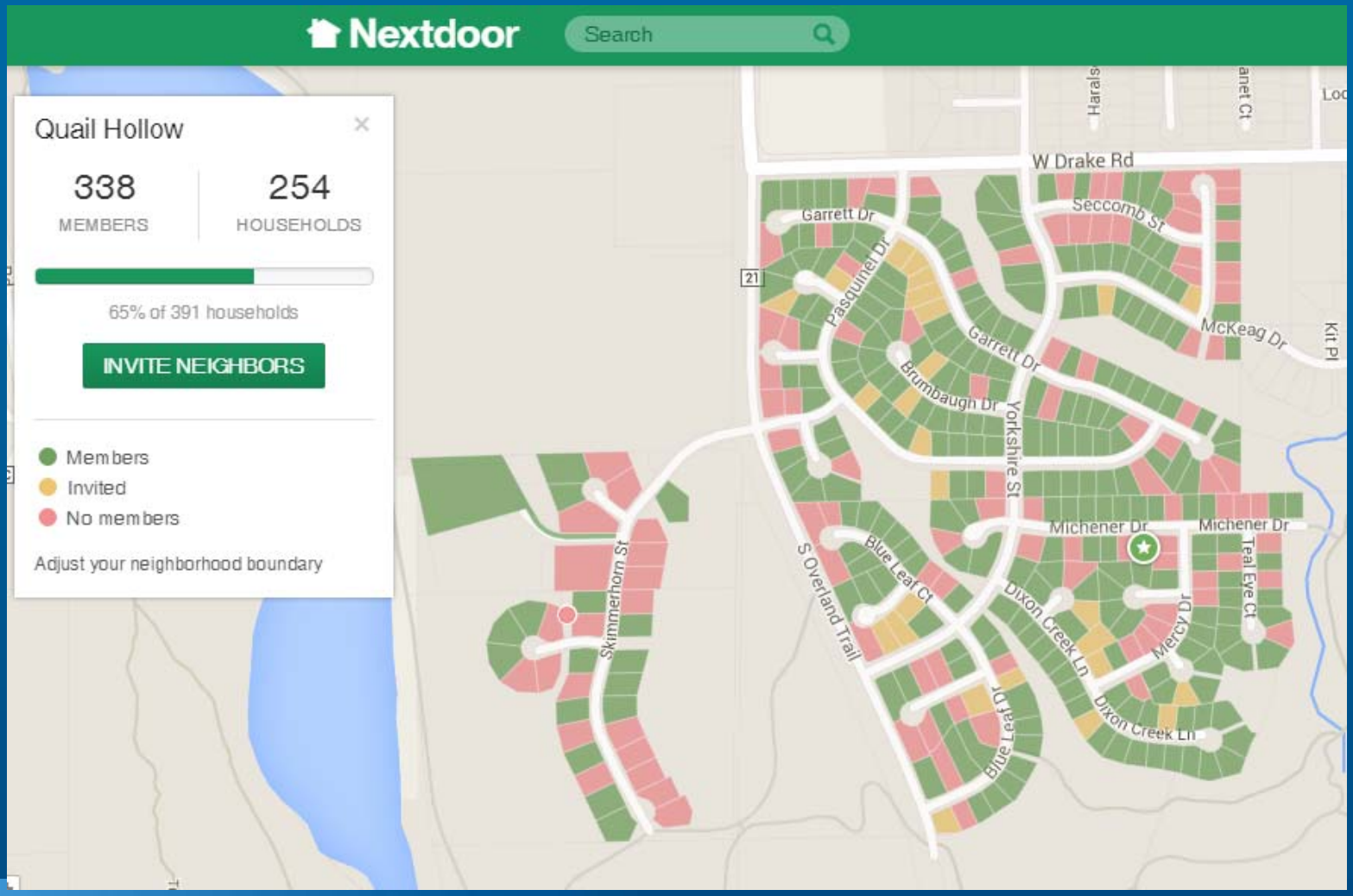
Adoption of Nextdoor since 1/2013



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Nextdoor Challenges / Frustrations

- Apathy or just not wanting to be involved
- Some people just resist change
- Fear of online security / anonymity
- Getting the word out
- Fear that Nextdoor will sell your data or City of FTC will read our content
- Receiving too many notifications from Nextdoor (simply change your notification settings)
- Establishing some guidelines on Posting Content to Nextdoor site a good idea
  - What category to use
  - How to avoid ‘reply all’ for one-on-one conversations
  - Avoid hot button topics: solicitation, religion, politics

How QH uses Nextdoor

- Neighborhood events, groups, gatherings
- Crime and safety
- Recommendations, Classifieds, can I borrow, please take some zucchini…
- Real-time communications from the City
- Pet, Kid, House, Yard sitters and maintenance
- Community & School happenings
- Link to other nearby neighborhoods
- Lost and Found (items, pets, recycle bins, etc.)

Effectiveness is a function of participation level

Engaging Neighbors

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Neighborhood Services

2014 City Park Neighborhood Events

The City Park Neighborhood Association (CPNA) is a non-profit group which plans events and ac
neighborhood in the area bordered by Laporte Ave., Taft Hill, Mulberry and Shields.

July 4 Kids Bicycle Parade

Friday, July 4 – 10:00 a.m. (meet at 9:15 a.m.)
This year we'll start out as part of the big City parade -head east on Mountain, and peel off as the big parade crosses Shields. Starts and ends at City Park, on the one-way street near the intersection of Jackson and Oak (same as in past years). Kids of all ages are invited to decorate bikes in red/white/blue, ride in the bike parade which is led by older kids/families and winds through the neighboring streets and through the park. Finish is at the same spot we started, where you can enjoy refreshing, cold treats. If possible, bring decorations to share and ride in style!

Annual Ice Cream Social— Neighborhood Night Out

Tuesday, August 5 – 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Join your neighbors to celebrate community and your neighborhood at Neighborhood Night Out. We'll meet for ice cream at the covered picnic area near the playground at City Park. Ice cream will be provided for FREE (donations accepted)! To keep the event as sustainable as possible, please bring your own re-useable bowl/spoon and an optional topping to share!

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday, August 16 – 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m
In the mood to do a little house cleaning? our neighborhood garage sale. We'll place Coloradoan and on Craig's List, and print maps of the neighborhood which will be a participating houses. You host your own s house. Interested in participating? Please e street address to Sylvia: scranmer@gmail.c before Wednesday, August 13th.

Annual All-Neighborhood M

Mid -September –location TBA
Whether you are a homeowner or renter, greet your City Park neighbors. Join us for on issues impacting your neighborhood ar nominate/vote for new 'Board' members. great time to volunteer for neighborhood committees. Social time from 6:00 pm to meeting from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.

Chili Pot Luck Gathering 2015

January 24, 2015: Club Tico at City Park
Join your neighbors in this 2nd annual, event u historic Club Tico. Food, games, music and fi

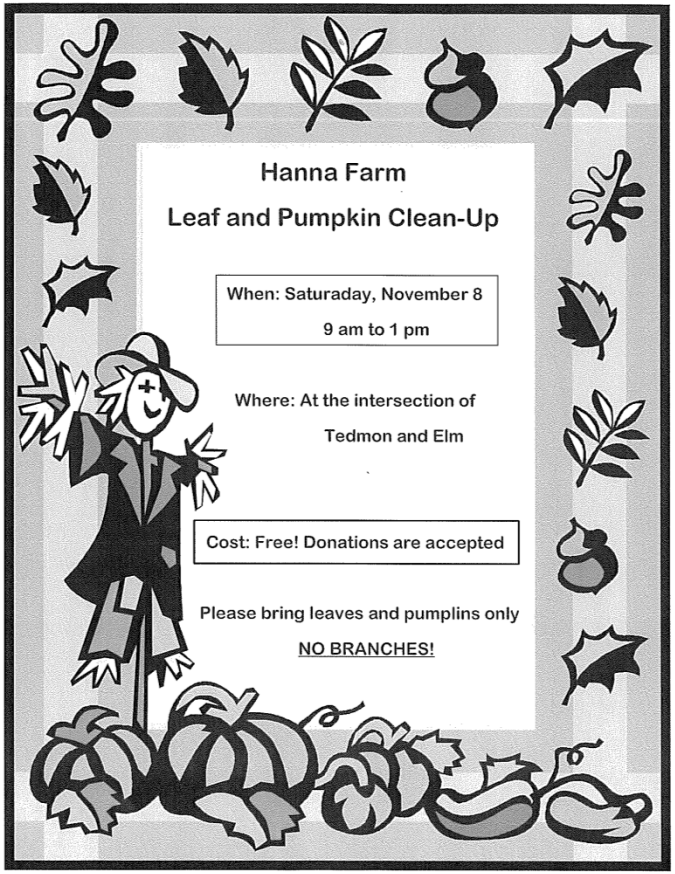
New - Twilight Swim at City Park Pool!

When the crowds have dispersed but the heat is still on, bring your friends and neighbors to the CP Pool with and relax at our own "neighborhood pool." The CP Pool 25-visit Twilight Pass can only be purchased at Mul EPIC. It is $90 ($3.60/visit – a $.90 discount/visit) and can be used after 4:30 p.m. Monday – Sunday. Familie the pass (only 1 needed per family) and can be reloaded when it runs out or you can still buy a full priced ticke entrance window. See you at the pool! Questions? 221-6607.

Let's keep the communication going…

- **Email:** receive email updates on activities, events and news affecting the neighborhood– contact scranmer@gmail.com
- **Facebook:** join the City Park Neighborhood Association on Facebook (search City Park Neighborhood Association and

If you are interested in becoming involved with our neighborhood association - CPNA, please contact Sylvia Cranmer, scranmer@gmail.com, or 493-5277.
We welcome help with neighborhood activity planning, flier distribution, newsletter/flier coordina



Harvest Park Natural Area Committee — Spring, 2014

Harvest Park Natural Area

News | Events | Information

What's Happening in 2014

Have you noticed a bumper crop of colored flags, holes and flower pots? New boulders and logs? Marked restoration areas? Sorry for the disturbance. This is our 2014 Natural Area Enhancement Project in progress...looking better every day.

What you can do to help

Check out the Habitat Hero Program, (habhero.org) to learn more about sustainable wildscaping with bird- and butterfly-friendly native flowers, shrubs and trees. Expand our neighborhood natural area to your own yard or patio, go native!

Editor Ellen Heath at HarvestParkNaturalArea@gmail.com
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What is important/valuable about the current neighborhood grant program?

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Neighborhood Level Engagement

Neighborhood Level Engagement

- What is the state of community in our neighborhoods?
- Why is engagement important and what does it look like?
- How would you ideally engage with your neighbors?
- Think about the biggest issue your neighborhood has faced in the last 10 years. How would you have dealt with that differently if your neighborhood was already connected?
- How important is this to you? How important should it be to the City?

3. What are the three most important responsibilities of leaders in your neighborhood (Top 3 in Order)?

66 A. Maintain Common Properties

54 B. Plan Social Events

19 C. Organize Clean-Ups

64 D. Communicate Among Neighbors

60 E. Solve Problems Internally

41 F. Engage in Future Planning

35 G. Protect Interests of Neighbors vs. Outside Entities

27 H. Act as conduit between Neighbors and City

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Which functions are currently being performed in your neighborhood? (choose all that apply)

34 A. Maintain Common Properties

39 B. Plan Social Events

24 C. Organize Clean-Ups

38 D. Communicate Among Neighbors

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Challenges in Current City-Neighborhood Communication in Fort Collins

Current neighborhood relationships with City = informal:

- No two neighborhoods communicate the same way or for the same reasons with the City
- Primarily issue-based relationships; no issues = no communication
- Multi-family dwellings primarily function as their own neighborhood; may not be integrated with surroundings
- Outreach processes often feel like they are starting from scratch vs. building on what we already know

Facts

- Fort Collins grew 25,000 to 140,000 people from 1960-2010
- Home to a vibrant, growing University
- City Plan, 2011: Provides demographic information suggesting Fort Collins could reach 250,000 by 2050
- Larimer County: Population over 65 will likely increase 130% by 2030; Population over 80 could quadruple
- Majority predicted to outlive ability to drive by 10%
- 90% of people prefer to age in place

In Cities with Formalized Neighborhoods/City Relationships

- There is an established mechanism by which large neighborhood wants/needs/desires are communicated; these are formalized and adopted into larger sub-area plans and City Plans.
- Neighborhood Councils or Neighborhood Associations are common terms—elected volunteers that represent the neighborhood.
- City provides staff to work with neighborhood organizations.
- City provides ongoing leadership training for neighborhood leaders, weekly communication and project updates.

Polarity Management Exercise

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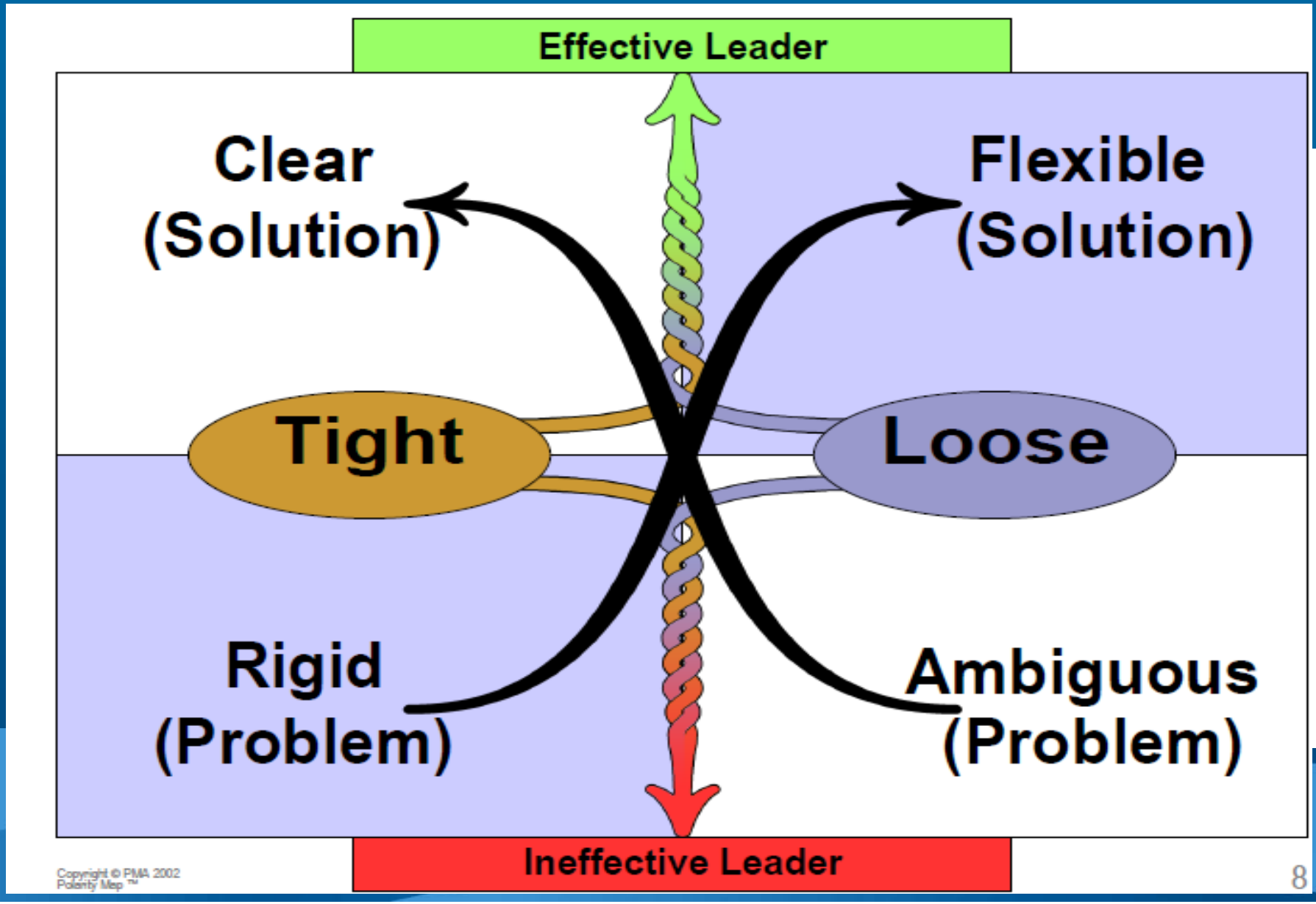
Polarity Management



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Polarity Map ™

Polarity Management

The Case for Consistency	The Case for Flexibility
Dependable, Clarity, Allowing comparisons, Tradition, Principled, Fair, Just, Reliable, Steady, Standards, Measurability	Innovation, Adaption, Individuality, Creativity, Outside the Box thinking, Pragmatic, Thinking on your feet

The Case for Consistency	The Case for Flexibility
Dependable, Clarity, Allowing comparisons, Tradition, Principled, Fair, Just, Reliable, Steady, Standards, Measurability	Innovation, Adaption, Individuality, Creativity, Outside the Box thinking, Pragmatic, Thinking on your feet
When Consistency dominates Flexibility …	**When Flexibility dominates Consistency ...**
Dogmatic, Stubborn, Unaccommodating, Stiff, Simplistic, Stuck in the past, Uninspired, Rigid, Soul-sucking, Obstinate	Wishy-washy, Ambiguous, Inconsistent, Erratic, Untrustworthy, Irregular, Unreliable

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Polarity Management Worksheet

The Case for Formality
When things go very well…

When formality dominates too much

The Case for Informatily
When things go very well…

When informality dominates too much

Steps in the Basic Exercise

- Polarity or tension is identified and named
- As individuals or in groups, brainstorm the positives for each end of the polarity one at a time, making the best possible case
- Groups then complete the out of balance problematic alternatives on the bottom row
- Groups can then potentially combine or compare their work
- Conversation can then focus on responding to the tension

What would it look like if engagement (neighbor to neighbor and/or neighborhood and City) were set up as criteria for neighborhoods to receive grant funds?

Neighborhood Leadership Training

- Formal and Informal leaders need to be trained
  - Build Community
  - Network
  - Create Standard of Work
  - Build a Passion for Innovation
  - Problem-Solve
  - Learn From Each Other

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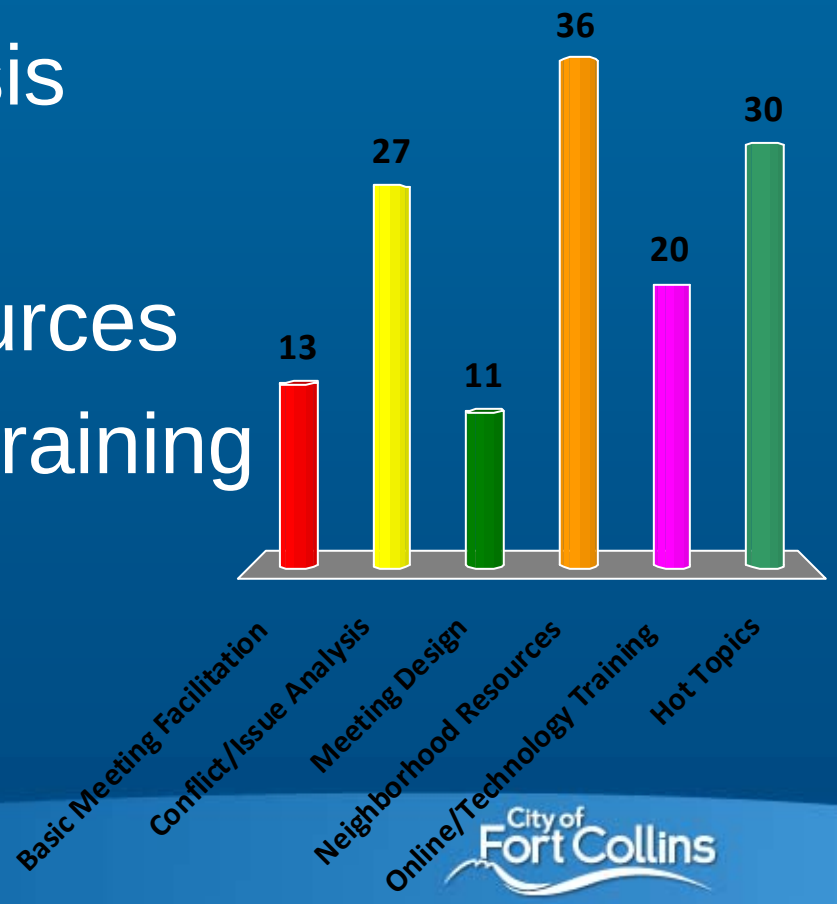
7. What types of training interest you as a Neighborhood Leader (Choose All That Apply)?

A. Basic Meeting Facilitation
B. Conflict/Issue Analysis
C. Meeting Design
D. Neighborhood Resources
E. Online/Technology Training
F. Hot Topics



One statement/thought from today to City Council: What is it? What Should They Know? Write it out.

Last Thoughts for Today

- Thank You To Neighbors, Students and Staff (All of YOU) Who Spent the Morning Here. It is very appreciated.
- Remember: All Good Leaders (and people in general) Complete Surveys Before They Leave an Event.
- Data will Be Shared in Neighborhood News: January/February Edition and through Nextdoor

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