

N2N COMMITTEE MINUTES

Time and Place: Friday, February 3, 2012 @ 7:45 a.m. City Hall Boardroom
Members Present: Janet Herring, Sue Nowak, John Radtke, Tom Holster
Others Present: Kathi Groeschel, Amanda Ostrowski, Jim Tipple, Jeremy Kopp, Max LaPorte

1) Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the 01/06/12 minutes was made by Radtke and seconded by Nowak. Minutes were approved.

2) Discuss Goals and Objectives

A draft revised Goals and Objectives form was distributed with the Agenda along with two draft organizational charts drawn up by Herring and Groeschel indicating their vision of the direction of N2N. The committee agreed that the main stumbling block at this point is the lack of members on the committee. We're in a lean time now and past members have left due to life changes.

The committee felt it is still very important to lobby the Alderpersons for support and the Mayor asked the committee for ideas on how to get them involved. They don't necessarily need to come to meetings and perhaps they are already involved in their district that N2N is not aware of. Mayor Tipple asked Officer LaPorte for his input from a policing standpoint, as to what we should be doing. He indicated he isn't involved in the Neighborhood meetings like he used to be with his job shift. The Westies neighborhood expanded their boundaries from Maple to Bridge and their group has not gotten any more volunteers coming to their meetings. As a side note, LaPorte indicated that at the last Police Sector Meeting, the residents were very complimentary as opposed to being full of complaints and grievances, as they were in the past. This is evidence that communication and police education is being noticed by citizens. Nowak indicated that connections don't go away when a neighborhood group disbans. Connections are truly the key. Relationships are formed and the ability to call upon an individual whether they are an employee of the city or a police or fire professional is important. LaPorte mentioned that there are neighborhoods within the Wausau community that already have connections and tightly communicate among their neighbors and do not have a formal neighborhood group formed.

What if N2N continues to exist and there are no Neighborhood Groups? What is our purpose then? We could still do clean-ups, drug awareness educational seminars, neighborhood block parties, etc. Who's got the time and who's going to do it? Getting people to attend is always a struggle. There's always a core group within any committee or neighborhood group that continue to do the work and burn-out eventually happens. Mayor Tipple will place his emphasis and make it his priority to involve more people in N2N. Herring is willing to help where her talents lie. A good start would be to look back at the volunteers at the last East Town Clean-Up. There were many involved that show a great interest in neighborhood revitalization.

Mayor Tipple asked Holster and Radtke about the East Town District. Holster and Radtke would not like to see N2N be a shoot-off of the Community Development Department. However, the CD Department is a strong ally and resource to call upon when neighborhood issues arise. They would hate to lose that connectivity but at the same time don't want the CD Department making decisions concerning their neighborhood. His experience is seeing individuals attend their neighborhood meeting coming with the question "What's in it for me?". He'd like to see the Inspections Department place more emphasis and focus on safety concerns (ie: stair rails on a porch) and less on the aesthetics of a neighborhood (ie: placement of a garbage can). A priority list should be drafted instead of the round of letters sent out from the Inspections Department. Mayor Tipple indicated that those letters are generated by citizen complaints.

LaPorte suggested we look at the city's standard operating procedures and then move forward. Look at how the city handles certain issues and fine tune them to fit. Take a couple issues and explore them.

Mayor Tipple suggested we nail down our goals the next time we meet and asked each committee member to personally ask individuals within their networks to serve on N2N. They wouldn't necessarily have to meet each month. He would like everyone to bring those names to the next meeting.

Nowak suggested we meet the 3rd Friday of each month instead of the 1st due to Tom Holster's other commitments. The Committee agreed to meet the 3rd Friday starting in March.

3) Old New Business

Holster said that he is 90% sure that there will be a Community Garden again near the Bridge Street Clinic and the East Town District is working toward building one along Jefferson street behind the Neighbor's Place.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nowak and seconded by Radtke. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2012.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kathi Groeschel
Mayor's Office, Wausau City Hall