MINNETONKA
NEIGHBORHOOD IDENTITIES

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Project scope

- Identify local and national models for fashioning neighborhood identities and facilitating the creation of neighborhood organizations.
- Survey of existing formal and informal neighborhood and community associations in Minnetonka.
- Benefit to community: (1) more formal representation of resident interests and concerns in future small area planning; (2) a greater sense of place (3) a stronger sense of community fostered by more frequent interaction with neighbors.
Outline

- Neighborhood involvement models
- Case studies: how do the models work?
- Minnetonka neighborhood and community organizations

Recommendations
- Minnetonka should focus on connecting with residents through existing organizations instead of creating formalized neighborhoods
- Guidance on how to implement recommendations
Project Strengths and Limitations

- **Limitations**
  - Some of us new to Minnetonka
  - Only three Minnetonka organizations

- **Strengths**
  - Research and review of models
  - Relevant case studies selected
  - Outside perspective
Neighborhood Involvement Models
Neighborhood Involvement Models

- Neighborhood programs across U.S.
  - Involve residents and neighborhoods in planning
  - Build community

- Three models
  - Neighborhood Planning
  - Formalized Neighborhood Associations
  - Independent Organizations
Neighborhood Planning

- High involvement
  - Neighborhood organizations create plans

- Analysis
  - Pros: empowers residents to plan
  - Cons: time and resource intensive
  - Relevance: voluntary process with interested organizations (i.e. Sherwood Forest)

City planner in Chicago engages neighborhood residents in a neighborhood planning process
Formalized Neighborhood Associations

- Formal citizen participation organizations
  - Provide feedback
  - Receive funding and technical assistance
  - Don’t need formal advisory role
  - St. Louis Park and Brooklyn Park (toolkit)

- Analysis
  - Pros: outreach
  - Cons: time intensive
  - Relevance: for existing organizations
Independent Organizations

- Consult neighborhood and community groups
  - Multiple groups
  - Seattle and Philadelphia

- Roles
  - Outreach to residents
  - Community improvement projects and events

- Analysis
  - Pros: different groups involved
  - Cons: less geographically focused
  - Relevance: build on existing assets
Case Studies
Seattle Communities Online

- Neighborhoods on the net
  - Placed based interactive list
  - Tool for citizens, groups, city government
- Creates an area where people and the city can communicate
  - Grants
  - Land use/maintenance
  - Community concerns
Interactive List

- [http://www.seattle.gov/communitiesonline/neighborhoods.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/communitiesonline/neighborhoods.htm)

View by:
- Category
- Geographic area
Place Based Interactive List

http://www.seattle.gov/communitiesonline/districts.htm

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Philadelphia Registered Community Organizations (RCOs)

- Community organization registration system
  - Must be notified about development issues
  - Pros: official role for multiple types of organizations
  - Cons: how to involve issue-based?
  - Relevance: independent organization model

Issue-based RCO

Neighborhood-based RCO
St. Louis Park Neighborhoods

- Formalized associations
  - City community liaison
  - Outreach for community development
  - Grants for events and projects
  - Relevance: outreach and community building

Geographic neighborhoods: point of contact for public hearings

Earth Day/Arbor Day neighborhood project
Minnetonka neighborhood and community organizations
Sherwood Forest Neighborhood Association

- Mission: “Enhance livability and community cohesiveness of the Sherwood Forest Neighborhood”

- Tips for developing neighborhood associations
  - Minnetonka should provide general guidance
  - Communities work best if there is a shared vision
  - Developing relationships with the people is key
Senior Services

- Located in the Minnetonka Community Center
  - Activities include: readers theater, pen pals, academic classes, trips, hosts events, and other senior services

- Tips for improving a sense of Community
  - Minnetonka memo awareness
  - Encourage citizen participation
  - Improve different programs

Photo: https://eminnetonka.com/recreation/senior_services/special_interest_groups.cfm
Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)

- Mission: “to offer hope as we provide assistance to our neighbors in need”

- Tips for developing neighborhood organizations
  - Develop a strong executive board
  - Have an effective director
  - Encouraging community and bring people together to work on a common goal
Recommended Ideas

1) Connect with neighborhood residents through existing community organizations
   - Neighborhood associations
   - Clubs
   - Nonprofits
   - Schools/ School districts

2) Establish formal and informal pathways for communicating and relationship building with organizations
   - Maintain the Minnetonka Memo
   - Develop relationships with citizens of the area
   - Develop a grant or assistance program for community organizations
Recommended Systems

3) Maintain an interactive list of community organizations
   - Open to both place-based and interest-based organizations
   - Allows the city and organizations to be more accessible to city residents
   - Seattle Communities Online

4) Develop a list of Registered Community Organizations (RCOs) in tandem with the interactive lists
   - City would have knowledge of active RCOs
   - Able to include and notify RCOs on topics such as:
     - Development decisions
     - Land use meetings
     - Changes in the community
Thank You