



Neighborhood Programs

Neighborhood Program Workshop

Wednesday, July 6

6pm – 7:30pm

Renton City Hall, 7th Floor Room 726

1055 South Grady Way, Renton

Please join us at the Neighborhood Program Workshop to talk about the future of the Neighborhood Program and the release of the **NEW Neighborhood Block Party Grant**.

ALL NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME

RSVP to Casey Stanley at cstanley@rentonwa.gov by July 5

If you would like to schedule us to come to your Neighborhood Association Meeting to talk about the New Block Party Grant and the future of the Neighborhood Program contact me at cstanley@rentonwa.gov to schedule a time.

Neighborhood Program Update

Over the last couple of months we have personally met with many of the neighborhood associations to learn more about each of their group's history, board's strengths and challenges, current and desired programming, areas they would like support from the city, and how they view this program being structured in the future. This has been a valuable experience to hear your heart and passion for your neighborhood and how we can further engage and support you in building stronger communities. We've learned a lot the last couple of months and are so appreciative of the time each person spent with me sharing their Neighborhood story.

Here is what we heard:

- I've been on the board either as president or board member for the last 20 to 15 years. It's been really hard to get new members involved.
- The same 3 people do everything
- It's really hard to get people to participate in Neighborhood Meetings or activities
- We would like more information and support when it comes to registering with the state and filing with the IRS.
- We don't have a dues system to help fund activities or supply cost
- We need a better way to communicate with our neighbors.
- We don't have the ability to apply for grants because we don't have a bank account.
- We don't have the funds to pay for liability insurance

- Would like to have a forum to communicate with other Neighborhood leaders
- We really like the grant program but would like more grant cycles
- Would not be able to communicate to our neighborhood without the Communication Grant
- Provide more trainings for Neighborhood leaders
- Trainings on how social media sites work (Nextdoor, Facebook)

We conducted a survey at the February 27th Neighbor to Neighbor forum and hosted a discussion table.

Here's what we heard from you at the discussion table:

- Would like more tools on how to reach renters in their communities
- How to work with Apartment Complex owners and managers
- Would like more collaboration between Neighborhoods and also businesses and non-profits that might be in their Neighborhoods.
- More contact from city liaisons
- More engagement opportunities between neighborhood leaders
- Adopt A Road program or litter control for the neighborhoods

Surveying the attendees produced these results:

- Top 3 benefits of being a "Recognized Neighborhood" are
 1. Receiving funds from the Matching Grant Program
 2. Receiving press releases and emails from Neighborhood Program staff
 3. Attending Neighborhood Program sponsored events
- Top 3 topics would you like to know more about to help address issues in your neighborhood
 1. Code Compliance
 2. Block Watch
 3. Volunteer Programs

88% agreed that your neighborhood is a great place to live

88% said they feel comfortable walking or biking in their neighborhood

90% said they feel welcome and included in their neighborhood

95% said they know their neighbors who live next to them

Next Steps

We heard you loud and clear and the vision of the Neighborhood Programs is to promote positive communication between residents and the city. The City is committed to promoting vibrant neighborhoods, supporting community involvement, fostering a sense of community, helping residents

address specific concerns, and building successful neighborhoods that reflect a positive community. In the next 6 months we will be working on creating a 5 year workplan for the Neighborhood program that will incorporate all the feedback that we received over the the last couple of months.

The work plan will include evaluating and expanding the Neighborhood Program to include:

Grants

- Considering offering more grant cycles.
- Add neighborhood representatives to the grant review team
- Develop opportunities for year-round:
 - Block Party Grants that would include: fee waiver for parks / shelter use, fee waiver for closing streets & barricades, interactive games, scheduling city representation (fire department, police, elected officials, city departments), seed money for event food
 - Kick-Off Picnic/Event Grants for new recognize neighborhoods or apartment complexes
 - “Screen on the Green” (movie screening) events
- Review the grant process and guidelines to allow for Apartment Complexes and non-profit organizations to apply

Programs

- Neighborhood Area Commissions that would consist of Neighborhood leaders from each Recognized Neighborhood and Apartment Complexes
- Neighborhood Celebrations that are designed around the neighborhood demographics; working with different neighborhood leaders, business, non-profits, apartment complexes and City Departments that can happen year round.
- “Celebrate your Neighbor” (week-long event) “Walk with a Purpose” – litter control
- Apartment Complexes / Renters program

Training

- Increased training opportunities for leaders and community members
- Capacity building for Neighborhood Associations
- Toolkits on our website for Neighborhoods to use to host own trainings
- Neighbor to Neighbor Expo that would be of interest to a bigger audience

Engagement

- Community engagement program on the city’s new website to allow for dialog between neighborhood leaders.
- Designated web pages for Community Areas/Neighborhoods to share their information
- Online Citizen Request ie: quick easy way for residents to inform the city of pothole, down trees, out signals, and etc.

- Community Areas/Neighborhoods Resource Page on website to allow residents to go to one place to find out information on other neighborhoods, non-profits and business in their area.
- Incorporate social media (Facebook, Next-door, Instagram) in the Neighborhood Program.

Liaisons

- Increase City liaison engagement with the Neighborhoods to answer questions and be a resource

Reaching and connecting Renton's ever growing neighborhoods includes growing beyond working within the framework of traditional neighborhood associations, but helping all our communities to connect, learn, express and celebrate diversity. Expanding to include apartments/renters and offering more resources further illustrates our goals moving forward. Again, this has been a valuable experience to hear from you, and we look forward to meeting more of you and collaborating to build a stronger and far-reaching program to make your neighborhoods and communities in Renton stronger.

Thank you for your time and support in this time of transition. The Block Party Grant will be release on July 6. You will apply as you have previously for the Picnic or the grants. The Block Party grant application will be online, a hard copy at the Neighborhood Workshop and will be email directly out to you.

Thank you

Casey Stanley
Neighborhoods, Resources and Events Manager