

# Geneva Neighborhood Resource Center (GNRC)

## Working in Partnership:

Geneva Neighborhood Associations  
**and**  
City Council



# Our Purpose Today

- Reflect on some trends that we saw in 2016
- Introduce some new ideas that neighbors believe would be effective
- Ask for your support for these ideas
- Want you to carry the “neighbor voice” with you in your work
- Talk about ways we can help you!



# Thank YOU!

Thank you for your participation in events, meetings, and advocating for our neighborhoods!

Your communication and participation makes all of the difference with how our neighbors view and participant the city.

Overall, we would love more interaction between neighborhoods and City Council!



# Neighborhood Trends

**We want to be your “go-to” constituents!**

If you have a vote: ask us about the issue, come to our neighborhood meetings or events, solicit feedback from the neighborhood.

We know that Rhonda’s session next will have lots of examples and tactics of how to connect more with neighbors and residents and we support that whole heartedly.

Completing the circle of communication: We will also try to make better efforts to come to Council meetings, hearings, and citizens academies.

(Historic North)



# NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION “BUY IN”

Ensuring people know the purpose of the neighborhood associations.

Scalable, manageable approaches to each part of your wards.

The big picture: do you know everyone in the city, your ward, your neighborhoods, etc?

NO, but this is a way to get everyone connected! Connections with the neighbors are critical.

This work is a tangible value to make Geneva successful.

*(Comp Plan: all neighborhoods can be a part of the areas of priorities, vision, and values)*



# The Value of the GNRC

The neighborhood work encourages people to work on their home, their street, and your ward.

This allows people to want to stay in their neighborhood, city, and gain new residents into the city.

We can tackle each problem that comes working together, but neighborhood by neighborhood...problems are different – this is the value!

We can't afford to NOT provide funding, because our City is only as good as its neighborhoods. Further, it makes us unique, because we have specifically identified neighborhoods, that work independently, as well as in concert for some events and projects. (Uniquely urban)

The improvements in Geneva since its inception have been dramatic!



# GNRC (Con't)

The GNRC helps you and us with communication.

- As mentioned, communication is key
- Good two-way communication is needed

*For example, a model for all the councilors:*

We know there are some good examples from several Councilors.

One in particular, Historic South Neighborhood is developing into a neighborhood of friends and supporters. Angelina's commitment to attend our meetings, her diligence in following up, reporting back, participating and promoting us in general has made a huge difference. She works very closely with the GNRC to make sure what can get done, does!

# **Dilapidated Houses, unkempt yards, safety**

**We can all agree that when these issues occur, this makes our neighborhoods less attractive than they could be:**

**This has a lot of cause and effect: for us to enjoy our quality of life at home, our community's housing market values, and the desire for new neighbors to live where we do can all be affected!**

**Thank you for trying to work within city staff to make some important changes in our neighborhoods. For example, demolishing some homes this past year.**



# How Can We Change This?

We suggest a hard review of existing codes and where there are gaps, let's work together to fix or fill them. We are willing to help with policy, clean up, etc.

For example, parking in yards, sidewalks, cars, RV & boat storage, housing conditions, etc.

If school is open, streets should be plowed and sidewalks should be clear.

**(Arbors, Lehigh Gardens)**

**(Comp Plan: Housing)**



# Events Are Growing!

Your participation in planning and day of is always appreciated.

Promoting our events on your vehicles of communication could help us.

A trend that residents like to see: local, outdoor entertainment at a minimal/no cost.

Our annual events continue to grow!

Founders Square: Musical Porches

Historic South: Moonshadow Over Pulteney

Hildreth Hill: Pumpkin Roll

Arbors: 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

South Lake: Garden Walk

Save the Date handout---LITERALLY SAVE THE DATE!

**(Comp Plan: Community Engagement)**



# Pets

## Dogs:

Holding dog owners responsible for having their dogs on a leash and for cleaning up after them.

- Doggie Waste Stations have helped!

## Cats:

Feral cats are an issue within each of the neighborhoods, some areas are worse than others.

- There is a resource now on our website.

Let's work together to make policy changes, see where enforcement can happen, etc.

(Historic North, Historic South)

**(Comp Plan: Environmental Stewardship)**



# Park Improvements

**A win-win!**

**We want to see all parks brought up to speed!**

**Neighbors support the plans in the park and want to help where we can!**

**These green spaces, play grounds, and parks are important to every neighborhood.**

**Having motion detected, solar lights for all parks.**

- **Founders Square- Benches, bases, Labyrinth, cemetery work.**
- **Neighborhood Park Pass**

**(Comp Plan: Beautiful)**



# Path(s) Creation Ideas

**1. A better path for children to get to school!**

*Lehigh Gardens/Castle Heights*

**2. An amenity path that will loop around neighborhoods. New hiking trail and learning opportunities. Great for tourists (ask at the Visitors Center)!**

*Arbors/Castle Heights*



**(Comp Plan: Uniquely Urban...Recreational assets are important to us...Great Geneva Amenities)**

# Interconnectedness

## Nighborhood and City-Wide Programming:

Nighborhood Park Passport

Nighborhood Olympics

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Inspire Community Leadership Day

Citizen Academies

Maintenance Month

City-Wide yard sale

GNRC Potlucks (at least twice a year)

**(Comp Plan: Connected)**



# **We want to hear from you...**

- **How can we help you in your work?**
- **What can we do throughout 2017 to be effective for advancing Geneva?**

# Let's Set Some Goals!

**What are two goals for the year for better Councilor and Neighborhood Association leadership?**



# Thank YOU!

## Questions?

