

Gathering Record
NeighborUp DC - 3rd Citywide Network Night
September 21, 2017, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
SeVerna on K (43 K Street, NW)

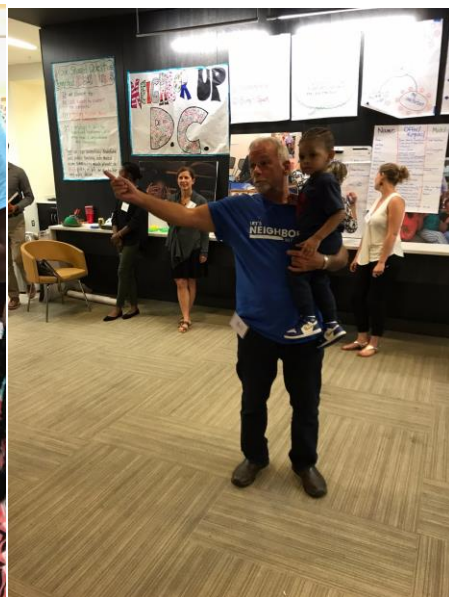
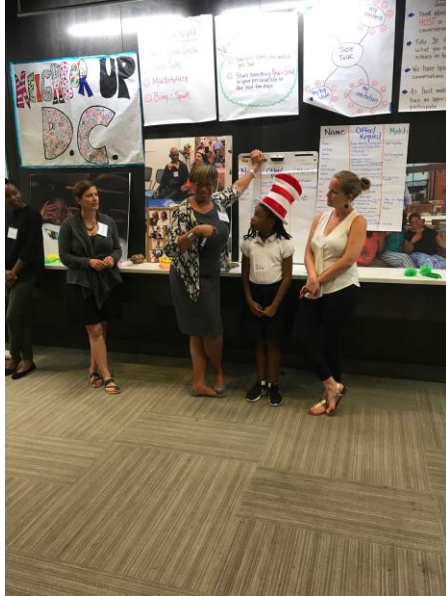


Table Talk Hosts, Topics, and Summary Points

Table Talk Topic 1: Shifting Balance of Power in neighborhoods experiencing change (with different races of people and different incomes moving in)

Hosted by Angie

- Many of us have personal experience living in neighborhoods through changes where the predominant race or income of the neighbors changes
- A key noticeable experience is the change in the friendliness of neighbors
- The bus stop is a key place where this is on full display, and the change from people speaking at the bus stop in the morning to people not speaking to each other.
- While it's not clear whether this is because people feel guarded and don't want to engage, or they are just absorbed in their own thoughts/plans, the racial factor can cause these moments to be interpreted negatively.
- They can contribute to people feeling isolated or like they don't belong in a neighborhood they may have been in for a long time.
- **Concrete idea:** some sort of bus stop "campaign" with signage that encourages people to simply "look up and say hi" to the people around them.
- Because people are busy and inwardly focused, you need something that disrupts these moments and reminds people to acknowledge one another.
- It would be great to think about other things that could disrupt in communal spaces and encourage to engage, even in just a bit of small talk before they move on. It's not a big commitment from neighbors, but could help with that feeling of belonging - being acknowledged and engaged by another person for just a few moments.
- Meeting people where they are and engaging in something they value can also help.
- **Concrete idea:** For example, acknowledging someone's pet or their child is an easy way to be friendly and engage across lines of difference.
- Neighborhoods need regular, intentional and fun spaces for people to engage across different races, cultures and incomes. Examples include drum circles and other cultural events that could attract a wide variety of neighbors.
- Often in changing neighborhoods, they go from a predominance of informal ways of engaging to structured and formal (I.e. lots of listservs and groups).
- **Concrete idea:** think about ways (through site design, property management rules, etc.) that redeveloping neighborhoods can intentionally make/leave space for informal gathering.

Table Talk Topic 2: Improving Street Safety around First and L Streets, NW (next to SeVerna)

Hosted by Belle

Participants: Kendra, Kevin, Lee, Winny

- Need for speed bumps and stop signs to calm speeding on First Street and L Street, since it is close to the playground by Sursum Corda (kids running around)
- Need for permit parking on First Street so SeVerna residents can park there
- Could also use better lighting
- Lee mentioned he would reach out to the MOCRS (community relations office) to communicate about the speeding/safety issue. Kevin is going to continue to keep tabs on this in his role as ANC Commissioner.
- Lee mentioned the street parking in Adams Morgan, where he lives. Belle mentioned that she grew up in Adams Morgan, shared some history of the neighborhood (the Adams School combining with the Morgan school). Diversity of the neighborhood.

Table Talk Topic 3: What are strategies to engage intergenerationally and more broadly improving intergenerational relationships?

Hosted by Washina

Participants: Yerodin, Bill, Joni, Coyan, Washina, Ms. Alice, Blu, Britt, Sean,

- Washina - How do we create a human environment where we can interact across generations? Spaces like rec centers/ boys and girls clubs
- Britt - Adopt a grandparent program
- Coyan - Need to engage people that are not already in public spaces
 - Connect with school, PTA
 - KIPP schools are open to ideas
- Blu - Kids would rather listen to each other - need peer leadership
- Also need peer leadership among seniors
- To increase respect for older people - need older people to participate in programs
- Alice - Son plays sports, there are good mentors in sports,
- Need for spaces in between spaces - there's no where to put people in LH
- Coyan - Roving Leaders program - lots of free programs
- Yerodin - Caution that things take time, creating new programs alone isn't the answer
- Washina - Bingo is good activity - slowly start building relationships (kids will know the older people from Bingo and stay off their yards etc)
- Blu - Have a center with activities that feels like a celebration for people to do things together. Kids like books and candy
 - Washina - Everyone could bring their favorite kids book, partner up, and exchange
- Sean - Schools are always looking for volunteers - find meaningful opportunities where kids already are
 - Bill - Schools are sometimes ambivalent about that.
 - No specific follow-up actions.

Table Talk Topic 4: Challenges with Day Care

Hosted by Shonta' High

Participants: Shonte, Frankie, Beverly from LH, Kate (?) from NW One, Gina (hope I am not missing anyone)

1. Began conversation by describing the challenges:
 - Costs (\$1,200 a month)
 - Voucher application process is very difficult.
 - Biggest challenge: many day care providers, especially in gentrifying neighborhoods, do not accept vouchers.
2. Talked about possibility of raising need for/passing anti-discrimination law, as has been done for Sec 8 certificates (Montgomery County)
3. Also talked about the challenge of "bad parents" who abuse the voucher program and discourage others from either using it or accepting vouchers etc.
4. Shonte proposed the idea of doing baby sitting cooperatives; we talked about both types - cooperatives where parents are helping out each other for "free" and we talked about the idea of people who are licensed to provide home day care forming a business cooperative to help each other in the running of their small in-home business.
5. The group also talked about how babysitting coops are a win win for everyone - and most importantly provide a positive environment for those children who do not have one at home.

6. Beverly shared that this is a dream of hers and her mother; they are both CDAs (Child Development Associate) but right now, she just found a job as a house keeper.
7. Beverly also shared her strategies for securing a voucher and offered to help others in the circle use these strategies.
8. The group agreed that this conversation and the idea of babysitting coops should be pursued.

Concrete Follow-Up: Loop in Rashida Brown, who has expertise in this area.

Market Place Match List

Name	Offer/Request/Declaration	Matches?
Aimee	O - dinner party to craft/collage	Kat Boyd
Winnie	R - Tennis partner	Yerodin, Brit, Shonta', Cameron, Joni
Mariam	R - Motorcycle Lessons O - Art Work	Art Work - Shonta', Kat, Coyan
Gina	R - Fiction Book Recs	Angie/Aimee
Chris Stennett	O - Construction/Design Consultation	
Shonta'	O - Teach crafts R - Learn Spanish	Crafts - Kat, Carolynn, Angie, Kendra Spanish - Beverly, Winny, Cameron
Mary Dew	Praying for all	
Lee	O - Connection to redline exhibit	Joni, Washina, Alice, Mariam, Ella
Blu	Recommendation for Latino famous person to research	
Joni	R - Need some tools for moving	Yerodin, Kat, Shonta'
Cameron	O - Exercise class on Oct 1	Angie, Joni, Beverly B, Beverly R
Washina	R - Learn investment in stocks	Yerodin
Alice	D - Attend Bingo on Oct 1st	
Duncan	D - Giving up Fritos	
Ella	O - Free notary service to anyone who can't afford it	Joined by Shonta'
Yerodin	R - Connection to someone who knows about worker co-op	Angie, Frankie
Beverly R		
Beverly B	Woman's clothes to offer	Coyan, Kat, Ella, Kendra
Frankie	Learn hand dancing	Mary, Ms. Alice
Coyan	New Business	
Cathy Sp	Career Institute Info	Beverly B
Kat	Wants to sell Art	Mariam