

## **Recommendations to B2 Watchers based on Neighborhood Surveys:**

Please note - the ordering of these recommendations does not reflect any hierarchy of need or desire, and many overlap into more than one category. Additionally, this is not an exhaustive list or something that is written in stone! It simply reflects the opinions expressed by folks who completed our online or in-person surveys. We hope that this serves as a conversation starter to help B2 Watchers expand and become more inclusive as it works to build a stronger and healthier community.

1) Work to facilitate and enhance relationships between good neighbors and increase more representative participation in B2 Watchers. Several people indicated to us a generalized distrust of neighbors and/or strangers. Some ways that this could be addressed include:

- Rotate meeting times - including days and/or weekends
  - Many people indicated that the meeting times prohibited them from being active.
- Have people who attend the meetings introduce themselves at the start of each meeting. Several people felt that even though they attend meetings, they don't actually know anyone in the group.
- Involve more people in leadership and committee roles. A few people indicated that B2 Watchers can sometimes feel like a click of the same folks where new people are not being welcomed in. Some ways that this could be addressed include:
  - Incorporate/unite with other watch groups or other community groups in our neighborhood
  - Form task-oriented groups to involve more people at a higher level
  - Form location-oriented groups (ex. at the block or street-level) to involve more people at a higher level
- Publicize the group more - lots of folks (7 out of the 15 we surveyed door to door) don't know we exist! Some don't have computers.
  - Flyers to houses - get more people distributing flyers & promoting the group
  - Publicize B2 Watchers on Jackson Television (JTV)
  - Publicize B2 Watchers in The Salesman/ The Citizen Patriot/ MLive
- Have a B2 Watchers suggestion box available (maybe at Boos Recreation Center?)
- Have a B2 Watchers website, or make the Facebook page available to people who do not have Facebook accounts
- Have more neighborhood events (like National Night Out, on a smaller scale) -over 50% of online responders had been to our major events. Time commitment is an issue for many community members, and attending an event is a much more manageable commitment than regularly attending meetings. It also may be more immediately rewarding, and may encourage community members to get more involved.
- Organize to carpool to meetings - especially for folks with mobility issues, folks who have trouble driving after dark, folks with safety concerns, etc.

2) Work to make Loomis and other parks safe and welcoming places. Many people are saddened and angered by safety issues at our neighborhood parks.

- Enforce open/close times
- Increase positive presence of neighbors - be visible
- Increase police patrols

### 3) Support & form alliances with neighborhood businesses and churches

- These organizations are (or should be) invested in the community and have large networks of community members. Allying with these groups builds the network of B2 Watchers.

### 4) Make meetings more productive

- Have folks introduce themselves at the start of each meeting
- Arrange for speakers/short presentations on important topics (ex. scams, emergency preparedness, etc.). Many people were disappointed in the sometimes basic level and repetitiveness of information provided at meetings (ex. lock your windows and doors), and expressed an interest in going deeper on topical issues.
- Have committees that present on their progress working on priority issues (see below)
- Distribute power/responsibility and make the most of community resources
  - Localize activity even more - by street/block?

### 5) Identify priority goals and desired outcomes & organize to achieve them

- Be less reactive, and more proactive - Several people expressed a desire to be less reactionary and more change oriented, working more on prevention and addressing issues on a larger - rather than individual - level.
- Focus on joint sense of purpose despite other differences folks in the group may have.
  - Avoid stereotyping of certain groups of people (ex. based on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, or homeowner/renter status)
  - Avoid excluding certain groups. Despite what we often hear, many renters are good neighbors and would like to be involved!
- Work to reduce:
  - Crime/theft
  - Unruly/disrespectful youth and adults
  - Yelling/fighting
  - Loose animals
  - Drug use and distribution
  - Deterioration of neighborhood homes
  - Deterioration of public spaces

### 6) Hold landlords accountable:

- Responsible for their properties
- Responsible for their tenants
- Pressure local government to enforce all appropriate regulations

### 7) Hold the city accountable to the needs of our neighborhood

- Increase police patrols
- More safety for children & pedestrians

- Make traffic slow down
- Tear down empty houses
- Fix the streets - potholes!
- Increase awareness of community resources (e.g. the number to call to get a neighboring overgrown lawn mowed) to empower community members to personally help achieve this goal
- Enforce proper parking during winter for better snow removal
- Make sure snowplows are operating safely and responsibly
- Deal appropriately with sex trafficking (people soliciting sex work in private homes)

Again, we see this as the beginning of a conversation - not the end. Please continue to engage in this ongoing conversation and help us improve the quality of life in B2 :-)