

CHAPEL NEIGHBORS LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING 02.07.26

Summary Notes

Leadership Team Members

Present:

Joan-Alice Burn, Gail A. Digate, Carol Dores, Gary Duechle, Bob Haizmann, Marianne Luczak, Michael Mager, and Will Symonds

Absent:

Robert Dores and Kelly St. Clair

Purpose of the Meeting

1. Continue development of Chapel Neighbors Strategic Plan 2026-2029 focusing on two (2) major priorities:

Promote public safety for residents and visitors to the Chapel area

Enhance quality of life for residents in the Chapel area and Mystic Hills

2. Prepare for upcoming multi-stakeholder meeting March 25 with City of Sedona, USFS, Chapel of the Holy Cross administrators, and representatives of Chapel Neighbors (Joan Burn, Gail Digate, Carol Dores, Bob Haizmann and Will Symonds)

3. Review Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

Mary Church, Gail A. Digate, and Gary Duechle reported on meeting January 27, 2026, with Zachary Schwartz, Coordinator for Sedona Sustainable Neighborhood Program.

The program gives residents the opportunity to become active partners with the City in building and sustaining vibrant neighborhoods.

Neighborhoods taking part in this unique certification program receive guidance and support from the Sustainability Department, to

organize workshops, projects, and events that enhance the livability of their neighborhoods and reduce residents' ecological

footprints. Participating neighborhoods receive program credits for their efforts, earning them recognition from the community and the Cit

Goal Areas for Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

1. *Energy*: Promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy sources throughout the neighborhood; target areas – residential energy conservation, renewable energy sources, and green building
2. *Air*: Reduce emissions generated in the neighborhood and improve both outdoor and indoor air quality; target areas – outdoor emissions, indoor air quality, trees and vegetation, carbon footprint reduction
3. *Water*: Conserve water resources and improve water quality; target areas – indoor and outdoor water conservation; storm water management; stream/gulch protection
4. *Land*: Encourage stewardship and conservation of ecosystems and resources; target areas – sustainable landscapes, wildlife and habitat enhancement, chemical pollution, recycling and waste reduction
5. *People*: Enhance the social vitality of the neighborhood by encouraging community interaction, partnerships, and outreach programs; target areas – health and wellness, community outreach, youth programs, neighborhood heritage, local economy and green purchasing

Certification

To keep certification as a *Participating Sustainable Neighborhood*, Chapel Neighbors (including Chapel area and Mystic Hills) must earn a minimum of 60 credits per year. To receive certification as an Outstanding Sustainable Neighborhood, Chapel Neighbors must earn a minimum of 100 credits per year.

Credits are awarded for attendance at neighborhood workshops and special events as well as for developing neighborhood communication infrastructure, forming sustainability-related clubs, and for implementation of neighborhood projects.

Activities Eligible for Certification Credit

1. Neighborhood Workshops (CPR Training would fall under this category)
2. Special Events (Food drives, recycling days, neighborhood cleanups
— *FireWise* activities would fall under this category)

3. Neighborhood Outreach (providing information to residents through Chapel Neighbors website would fall under this category; expand participation on website)
4. Neighborhood Clubs (Mystic Hills Book Club would fall under this category as would additional groups of residents in the Chapel area pursuing a similar sustainability interest or participate in a common activity on an ongoing basis; e.g., water conservation group, solar energy project, etc. Carol Does will reach out to residents who completed recent survey to identify potential members for a Chapel Neighbors Sustainability Leadership Team as well as potential interest groups.)
5. Implementation occurs when a neighborhood takes direct action to make a change that advances sustainability. There are two implementation categories: major and minor. City staff work with the neighborhood to help determine implementation goals.

Note: Chapel Neighbors already has determined two (2) major implementation goals: (1) Mitigate traffic volume and flow on Chapel Road and adjacent neighborhood streets and (2) Improve egress in upper Chapel area

Next Steps: Sustainable Neighborhoods Program

Carol Does will identify residents' interests and send out email inviting them to consider serving as a member of the *Chapel Sustainable Neighborhood Leadership Team*. Once a group of 20 residents is identified and agree to serve, Gail Digate and Carol Does will complete application. Anticipated time frame: February 9 – March 15.

4. Review meeting with representatives of Sedona Community Development, Transit, and Public Works Departments and Chapel Neighbors on February 4, 2026 (4:00-6:00 PM)

Chapel Neighbors: Gail A. Digate, Bob Haizmann, Marianne Luczak, and Michael Mager

City of Sedona: Tony Allender, Director - Community Development; Steve Mertes, Assistant Director - Community Development; Cari Meyer, Planning Manager – Community Development; Jon Ebers, Public Works - Engineer (Traffic Study); Amber Wagner, Transit Director.

Chapel Neighbors representatives all reported very productive and positive exchange of ideas with City staff. All participants agreed to continue conversations in mid-March when Chapel Neighbors has completed draft strategic plan ready to share with Community Development Department.

Tony Allender and *Steve Mertes* discussed City's current initiative to prepare for wildfires as well as work to reduce insurance premiums and prevent insurance companies from dropping coverage of residents' properties by blending *Fire Wise* and IBHS (Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety).

Jon Ebers reported on progress of traffic study indicating study currently underway. Focus is to measure traffic on Chapel Road which can continue as long as counting/monitoring device is not needed in another area of the City (e.g., emergency situation). Jon also indicated he is studying possible locations of a new shared use path (SUP) to improve egress for Chapel East neighborhood. One location under consideration would start at south part of Fox Road and continue through National Forest to Lynx Drive or Little Horse Trailhead. Another possibility is to connect Cathedral Lane with Antelope Drive.

Amber Wagner: Shared recent data regarding expanded usage of Sedona Shuttle Connect to Chapel area. Ridership continues to increase since initiation of service in early November 2026. Recommends to City Council that Sedona Shuttle Connect to Chapel area become permanent (pilot period ended February 1, 2026). She also indicated several ideas to implement in working with Betty McGinnis, Director of Operations for Chapel of the Holy Cross, for sharing Shuttle services on Chapel website. Chapel Neighbors also offered to post information on its website as well.

Marianne Luczak: Current traffic study metrics do not go beyond counting cars. Need data on number of vehicles and how long traffic is backed up from Chapel entrance to Cathedral Lane.

5. Update on Conversations with Chapel of the Holy Cross

Explored need to reframe conversations regarding focus of responsibility to manage traffic on Chapel Road from Chapel of the Holy Cross to City of Sedona

- Shift the ownership of the problem to City. Driving question now becomes *"What is the City going to do to mitigate traffic volume and flow on Chapel Road and side streets during the 55-60 days each year that visitors flock to the Chapel of the Holy Cross?"*
- CN maintains City of Sedona is responsible for Chapel Road and neighborhood streets.

6. Action Items February 9 – March 16, 2026

1. Carol Dores and Joan-Alice Burn to schedule meetings with Brian Fultz, Anette Spickard and Andy Dickey in February (as a prelude to multi-stakeholder meeting with City and USFS on March 25). The purpose of these meetings is to discuss expectations for better traffic management on Chapel Road and offer to help support the City's efforts.
2. Bob Haizmann, Will Symonds, Gary Duechle, and Gail A. Digate draft document outlining Chapel Neighbors shared interests and email to Chapel Neighbors Leadership Team for review prior to next meeting.
3. Chapel Neighbors Leadership Team meet March 16th (3:00-5:00 PM) to finalize document regarding shared interests and prepare agenda for multi-stakeholder meeting with City and USFS (March 25). Carol Dores and Joan-Alice Burn will report on meetings with Brian Fultz, Anette Spickard, and Andy Dickey.