**Sarasota County Community Data Collaborative Meeting Notes**

May 22, 2013 – BOB Building (Sarasota County Government)

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| First Name | Last Name | Neighborhood | Organizational Affiliation |
| Frank | Levey | Sarasota Golf | SproutCamp, BarCampSRQ, Suncoast Technology Forum |
| Colleen | McGue | Indian Beach/Sapphire Shores | SCOPE |
| Trevor | Melderis | South Gate  | Sarasota County GIS |
| Allison  | Pinto | Central-Cocoanut | Sarasota Community Studio |
| Kathy | Solie | Country Pines | Sarasota County GIS |

The meeting was called to order at 10:08am.

**Welcome/Introductions**: To open the meeting Colleen asked us to introduce ourselves by name, neighborhood (to reinforce our neighborhood centric orientation), and organizational affiliation. Allison noted that when she listened to the audio recording of the past meeting, it sounded like some people were unclear about what it means for everyone to take up their resident identity as participants in the Collaborative. Some people are confusing this with “representing” the neighborhood where they live. Allison explained that the resident-centric orientation is what makes this Collaborative unique, and that everyone who lives in Sarasota County is capable of thinking from the perspective of a resident, in addition to thinking from the perspective of their professional identity. Thinking as a resident matters because it heightens everyone’s sensitivity and awareness of realities that affect neighbor-to-neighbor relationships and neighborhood life, to which we can be oblivious when only thinking from the perspective of our professional identities. We need to keep these realities in mind with every decision and action of the Collaborative to ensure that the processes and products are optimally effective, and also to best ensure that they do no harm. Allison suggested that in addition to stating our neighborhood, we also describe something we like about our neighborhood in order to connect with our neighbor identity and reinforce our neighborhood-centric orientation.

Trevor: South Gate – has the Westgate Shopping Center and Philippi Creek runs through the whole neighborhood. He would like to see more public access to the creek.

Kathy: Country Pines is a neighborhood contained within the development of Deer Hollow; it is a neighborhood on the west side of I-75. It soon will have Benderson Park as there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday for the opening of North Cattlemen Road, connecting University Parkway and Fruitville Road. She likes the geographical positioning that place her neighborhood ½ way between BOB (the County Offices located off Sarasota Center Boulevard) and downtown. She feels that the homeowners association is too stringent.

Allison: Central Cocoanut has a lot of dogs and some pit bulls are a problem for neighbors. Some of her neighbors approach her about the problem but are uncomfortable about talking to her next-door neighbor who has one of them. The houses are very close together but most people seem to be comfortable with that. There are a lot of kids in the neighborhood and they are often scootering about.

Central-Cocoanut is a neighborhood north of downtown, from 10th Street to 27th (MLK) and Route 41 to the railroad tracks east of Central Avenue. This is also where Sarasota Community Studio is located, which was established by neighbors. She likes the scale of the neighborhood – many lots are 50x100, so neighbors are in close proximity to one another. It is an effervescent neighborhood with lots of kids and a lot of people out on bikes and scooters, with mangoes and mulberries and other fruit trees throughout the neighborhood.

Colleen – Indian Beach is a neighborhood that she likes. There are a couple of large residences there. One of her neighbors has been there a long time and seems to have appointed himself as the guardian for an enormous cactus which he has protected forever even though it is primarily located on her property with just a little hanging over onto his property. He comes out and yells at people if they drive too close to it.

Frank – Sarasota Golf is wonderful because of the golf course and being able to look out across it and see the wildlife that visit the grassy areas and the trees. However, it has been a target for developers who want to put more houses there. The Homeowners Association is voluntary and we did raise money to hire a lawyer and some residents who lived there a long time agreed to be the test case. The original plots were sold based upon their being located on the golf course. However, they were unable to find documentation of same. The developer won the court case and was awarded some damages by the court. Therefore, no one wanted to pursue this any further. Luckily, the economy made building houses less desirable and no land clearing was started as in other golf courses in the area so we had no unsightly piles of dirt. However, they did not fix a broken drainage control and the pond behind my house and a few neighbors has turned completely green. A golf course is still operating there but it cannot bring in the same revenue as would a development.

**Meeting Minutes:** Colleen pointed out that a technical problem needed to be solved. None of the minutes since February had been approved. It was decided that the minutes for February through April would have an annotation appended stating that they were approved 5/22/13 with limited feedback because people present on 5/22/13 to approve were either not at the meetings or had not read the notes. Notes will also be edited to include a statement at the end that says, “Notes drafted by (name) with edits by (name(s)) and accepted on (date).” Whenever people indicate during the motion to approve the meeting notes that they are not able to comment because they were not at the meeting and/or did not review the notes, this is helpful information to include in the final version of the notes as well, for the sake of accuracy and transparency. It was also noted that due to the quality of the recording of the March minutes, some portions were not able to be documented.

**Discussion about Data Collaborative questions:** Despite the fact that many members who have been attending meetings regularly were not present, the group decided to go ahead with the discussion so that we could at least begin discussing the questions presented by Tim Dutton on our Data Collaborative at the last meeting. The group agreed to document the discussion and present the notes from this discussion for other Data Collaborative members to read over ahead of the next meeting and build upon by contributing their own responses in writing prior to discussion at the next meeting.

The group went around the room and answered each question in a “round robin” style while Colleen typed their answers into a document that was projected on the screen. Colleen agreed to send the document around after the meeting to those present so that they might review and add their comments.

\**Notes from this discussion will be sent in separate document once those present have had a chance to edit the document.*

**Platform & Technologies:** Colleen gave an update on improvements that the Urban Institute has made to the platform this month. She mentioned that they have improved the asset-upload feature so that SCOPE can finish uploading the asset data into the platform. They have also finished building out the “Add Your Story” upload feature so SCOPE will continue uploading Life is Good Moments to the Community Platform. Colleen stated that we need to decide what we want to do with the nonprofit data that the Urban Institute has loaded into the platform. Should it be located under assets? Currently this data is available on the platform on a separate page from the one where the big map of the county/neighborhoods. She showed an example of this feature/tool on the Brevard County platform. Allison said she felt it should be an asset—needs to be built in, rather than as a separate thing and should show up like the rest of the dropdown menus of assets.

Allison stated that since we are now in month nine that something is not working. She said that we need a Collaborative conference call with the Urban Institute between now and the next meeting because what will happen is we will come to the end of our 12 month trial and will not have the platform built. The Collaborative has designated SCOPE to be the liaison but the Urban Institute is not responding in a way that is functional. Colleen suggested that perhaps this can be a “Go to Meeting.” Allison stated that this meeting needs to take place as soon as possible. Colleen said that she will work with the Urban Institute to find some good dates/times, then have us indicate our availability.

Colleen also stated that the ability for her to update neighborhood pages is built out, so if any neighborhoods want the nonsense text updated on their page they should send that text to her. In addition, we might want to create and answer some FAQs for the neighborhood page. As a sample, this information has been posted for Indian Beach Sapphire Shores. She said it would be neat to have some neighborhood pages that were updated with this information so we had some examples to show when sharing the platform with others.

**Datasets/Stewards**:

SCOPE has created a shared Dropbox account where Collaborative members can access all the data that we have gathered so far to be part of the community platform. Colleen stated that the Arrest data will be discussed next month.

**Announcements:**

By attending an event at Laurel Civic Association for the annual postal carrier food drive, SCOPE staff were able to get the views of people, many of whom were the type of people that would not normally be touched as they are not the type to come out and attend meetings and others would not be the ones to fill out a survey. This was an opportunity to gather community knowledge that is more representative of the community, rather than the “usual suspects.” SCOPE is continuing to engage with residents on the qualities of life that matter through Community Conversations and Community Data 2.1 sessions.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 6/26 due to people present not being available on the 19th. The suggested location would be the Fruitville Library. Colleen will check on availability or choose an alternate location, if necessary.

Allison mentioned that the Sarasota Community Studio will be holding an event on Saturday, July 20. This will be a follow-up “Data for Community Change” neighborkid workshop. If the Data Collaborative wants to be associated with it, this is something for the Collaborative to consider in the upcoming month. Allison will send an email to the Data Collaborative BaseCamp list.

A message for kids throughout the community will be going out through Sarasota Community Studio for kids in different neighborhoods to go neighborhood scavenger hunting and to get together to reflect on data for the sake of change afterward. The Sarasota Community Studio will think with Data Collaborative members about ways to get the word out to kids who might be interested.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20.

*Meeting notes drafted by Frank Levey and submitted to Data Collaborative for approval.*

*Approved (with additions from Allison Pinto) by Kathy Solie and seconded by Trevor Melderis on 6/26/2013.*