



MAKING HEADWAY IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Making Headway in Sanford

Community Celebration —November 26, 2019

Summary and Final Report



TAMMY WELLS/Journal Tribune

Projects: “Lafayette Children’s Crosswalks” and distinctive street signs

Project Overview:

In the spring/summer 2019, the City of Sanford initiated two community projects for the Lafayette neighborhood, also known as the East Side, to foster a “can do spirit” and help create positive change within the neighborhood.

At the beginning of Making Headway process a kick-off community event was held. The purpose of the event was to:

- Introduce the overall initiative of a neighborhood plan with Lafayette school as the center piece for discussion
- Introduce Making Headway in Your Community and how it fits into the neighborhood planning initiative
- Discuss three main questions:
 - What is great about the neighborhood?
 - What needs improving?
 - How should Lafayette School be used when it is closed?
 - Describe the neighborhood small project challenge and facilitate some discussion about ideas for the projects

The next community event was “Pitch Night” which launched the small community projects. The purpose of this evening was to:

- Continue to engage and involve the members of the Lafayette neighborhood
- Hear project pitches
- Vote on projects to determine which one or ones move forward
- Identify next steps and project leaders

The projects chosen at Pitch Night were provided a small community projects grant of \$1,000. The winning projects chosen were a combination of the “Lafayette Children’s Crosswalk” and distinctive street signs.

Two crosswalks were painted at a busy intersection next to the school in a multitude of colors. This portion of the project incorporated the children’s involvement in selecting colors and painting two crosswalks on Brook and Thompson

Streets. The children were very excited about their involvement with the project. Donations from local businesses and residents made it possible to complete both projects with the \$1,000 grant. Donations and sponsors included:



- Sherwin-Williams - Paint and painting supplies
- Cabana Auto Body - paint plastic to cover paint area
- Circle K Sanford - Bottled water
- Deering Lumber - Cleanup rags
- Getchell Bros. Inc. – Ice
- Stacey Hensel, resident – Popsicles
- Springvale Hardware – discount on tape
- Learning Works – Labor



The decorative street signs were installed at the intersections of Cottage and North Ave, Brook St, and Washington St and the intersections of High and Grammar St, Emery St, and Island Ave. The signs include a dome on top of a standard street.

In the spring of 2020, a Neighborhood Walk will be organized to view these installations and identify opportunities for areas to provide or improve community assets and infrastructure.

Overall, there was over 80 hours of community volunteer time and \$650 in donations and sponsorship money in completing both of these projects.

The Event:



There was a gathering at the Lafayette School during parent/teacher conferences. The volunteers and steering committee members were there to celebrate the completion of the projects (with cake of course) and to discuss the projects and the plans for the future with parents as they came to the school to

attend conferences. There was information and pictures of the small projects, information and pictures about the student art exhibit which consists of the kids' pictorial rendering of what they would like to see for the school's new use, information about a



neighborhood walk, a community survey with a neighborhood map, and a signup sheet for the walk and to become more involved.

Next Steps:

Skills, Instincts and Abilities: The Steering Committee is researching and planning to bring a workshop about community development and outreach to Sanford.

The Making Headway project will continue as the Lafayette Neighborhood Initiative with the following goals and objectives. The Lafayette Neighborhood Initiative seeks to:

- build trust among neighborhood residents, municipal leaders, community organizations, and Sanford residents,
- encourage neighborhood residents to engage with the City and Sanford residents to have a powerful voice in planning for the neighborhood's future,
- improve the safety and overall health and wellness of Lafayette neighborhood residents.

To make progress toward this goal, the Lafayette Neighborhood Initiative seeks to:

- engage residents in considering reuse options for Lafayette School to be included in a proposal to the City Council to guide their decision making.
- engage residents in developing a neighborhood plan that presents a vision for the neighborhood's future, as part of the Sanford Comprehensive Plan including Sanford's three major economic development initiatives: broadband fiber network, technical/career high school, and the solar array.

Lafayette Steering Committee will continue to meet and even hopes to expand its membership. The next community event will be in the spring of 2020, a Neighborhood Walk will be organized to view the new sign installation and identify opportunities for areas to provide or improve community assets and infrastructure.

Other Projects that came about because of Making Headway:

- Lighted crosswalk signs were installed by Sanford DPW at the intersection where the crosswalks were painted. The material for this project cost \$341 and the DPW labor cost were \$1050.



- Potholes were filled and road painting in the area of the school was freshened up.
- An art show of the children's drawing of what they would like to see as a new use for the school was displayed at City Hall and will also be part of a traveling show that will be displayed at local business and community gathering places

Lessons Learned:

Greater Public Participation: throughout the process attendance was an issue, sometimes for reasons out of the control of the committee (snow storms). Making Headway relies on our community Steering Committee to minimize any conflicts, and more can be done for future events.

The Steering Committee discussed two strategies to help with attendance moving forward: one is to explicitly and actively ask and investigate potential time conflicts with other events, and the other would be to use other outreach strategies especially as the Steering Committee wants more input about the school and the neighborhood plan. Some of the outreach strategies are to use the network of the steering committee and friends of the steering committee to advertise, talk to people in person by taking flyers door to door in the neighborhood, and incorporating activities into events that are already happening.

To incorporate this last strategy the steering committee brought the community celebration to the parent/teacher conference night instead of having a separate event. Steering committee member also went to the local polling station the night of the election to pass out information, answer questions, and recruit new volunteers.

Media:

Can Do Spirit on Sanford's Eastside-

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20190620/can-do-spirit-on-sanfords-east-side>

Crosswalks Painted by Sanford's Lafayette School Students Brighten the Way-

<https://www.pressherald.com/2019/06/18/crosswalks-painted-by-sanfords-lafayette-school-students-brighten-the-way/>

Residents Look to the Future for Sanford's Lafayette School-

<https://www.pressherald.com/2019/02/07/residents-look-to-future-of-sanfords-lafayette-school/>