

Back on Track Guidance for Valparaiso's Neighborhoods

The City of Valparaiso aims to be a resource to our neighborhood groups as the State of Indiana moves forward with Governor Holcomb's [Back on Track Plan](#). On May 22, we will enter [Stage 3](#) which allows for social gatherings up to 100 people and allows more businesses to open at larger capacity.

As spring and summer are typically a busy time for neighborhood activities, here are some tips to help you plan for gathering safely with your neighbors. Ultimately, it is up to you and your neighbors how to proceed with events and meetings this year and we suggest you incorporate state and CDC guidelines. We also encourage you take into consideration your neighbors that may not be able to fully participate in a particular event and offer alternative ways for their involvement.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

Some neighborhood groups host monthly or quarterly meetings to provide updates, set goals and make decisions, and to connect socially. Additionally, springtime is typically when HOA's and POA's host their annual membership meetings. These have likely been canceled or postponed during COVID-19 and you may be brainstorming ways to meet virtually or venues where you can keep social distance. Consider outdoor common areas or nearby parks where people can bring their own chairs and set up comfortably while spread out.

There are several online platforms that offer free options for conference calls, video calls and more. If you meet in person, you may want to offer a call-in option or record the meeting to be shared with others that are staying safe at home.

BLOCK PARTIES

To be successful, you should seek consensus and input from your neighbors before deciding to host a block party for your neighborhood. Comfort levels may vary, and you will want to discuss things like – What are socially distant games and activities we can offer? Should buffet style food be provided or no food at all? Can we set out hand sanitizer? While some things may seem like common sense, it's important for the party organizers to think through some frequently asked questions before promoting the event.

If you want to request a street closure for your block party, contact City Hall at 462-1161 a few weeks in advance, as all closures need to be approved by our Board of Works and Safety.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALES

Like block parties, for a successful neighborhood-wide garage sale, you should get input from neighbors and see if others are on board. The organizers should think through questions like – Should we limit the number of people on a driveway at a time (only 3 shoppers here at a time)? How can areas be sanitized between shoppers to keep everyone safe? What additional signage or direction is needed? Should people only set up tables on the driveway rather than inside the garage to keep things more spread out and open?

Please share examples from your neighborhood of how you are conducting meetings or events in a safe manor so that we can circulate positive ideas. If you have additional questions, comments or feedback you would like to discuss, contact Maggie Clifton, Community Engagement Director, at mclifton@valpo.us.

STAGE 3 - GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Hoosiers 65 and older and those with known high-risk medical conditions should limit exposure in their communities.
- Face coverings are recommended.
- Social gatherings of up to 100 people may take place following the [CDC social distancing guidelines](#).
- Wash and sanitize hands regularly.