

QUESTION #1: *What is your definition of “neighborhood” and what is your vision as it applies to the city's priority of Neighborhood Wellness?*

DONALD HEDRICK: The list of neighborhoods grows by steps in time as the town’s growth evolved. Sometimes a particular evolution would be named for a time period. When the railroad was new and building that part of the town developed to serve that period of our town's history. That would be one way of being a neighborhood. My experience with neighborhood is that of a working fixer problem solver kind of guy having a neighborhood of businesses grow up around him. That was fine fit for me personally as I had a livelihood that created stuff and business activity sometimes has a by product of noise or other annoyance and my neighborhood of commerce shared our noises gracefully. New neighborhoods seem to draw a line and build a fence to fit in. I think that a neighborhood is what you make out of it. The word itself brings up the thought of an extended family sort of thing where a person would be aware of the peoples lives going on around them. A neighborhood is something to be a part of.

JAN MARX: A neighborhood is an area of the city which residents who are living there identify as “my neighborhood.” I am in favor of mapping neighborhoods and facilitating “Neighborhood Councils,” which would empower the neighborhoods and give them a stronger voice. Neighborhood Wellness is a program evolving over time and should remain a top priority,” which would empower the neighborhoods and give them a stronger voice. Neighborhood Wellness is a program evolving over time and should remain a top priority.

JEFFERY SPECHT: My definition of a neighborhood is a clean, safe environment for residents. I am not happy with a lot of the ordinances that have been created as our City has been capitalizing on Neighborhood Wellness. They are not looking out for the neighborhoods for we the people locally but are looking at the revenues from the violations to benefit the City's CalPERS retirement program. It has nothing to do with taking care of the residents but filling the city employees' pockets with gold.

DANIEL CANO: My definition of neighborhood aligns with community, and reflects a given community of homes often bordered by specific streets or landmarks. Like a community, a neighborhood is often associated with common social and physical characteristics that reflect its values. My vision as this applies to the city’s “neighborhood wellness” is that both the city and neighborhood residents play a role in educating neighbors about codes meant to keep the neighborhood clean, safe and attractive.

CARLYN CHRISTIANSON: As the LUCE Update Task Force discovered, different people have different ideas about what is a neighborhood, and where neighborhood boundaries are. So it’s important to recognize that different residents might have different definitions. Thus, my definition would include the concept that it’s the people

in the neighborhood who define it. That being said, I think “neighborhood”, at its most straightforward, would generally be recognized as a geographically local area of a bigger town or city, where the residents feel that they have some level of increased social connection, and possibly shared values and history. This relates to the city’s efforts regarding Neighborhood Wellness, in that the city is encouraging people to get connected to their neighborhoods if they are not already, and take responsibility for their own actions and activities in their neighborhood, so that connections are upheld and strengthened. Communication is always the hardest part, and I think that’s why neighborhood police officers can help, along with the many other efforts are underway including the Civility working group, the Neighborhood wellness code enforcement teams, and generally an increased awareness on everyone’s part that speaking to one’s neighbors and getting involved when possible is crucial.

MICHAEL CLARK: A neighborhood is a mostly contiguous residential area within an R-1 through R-4 zone where people live and self-identify with the area. It may include minor non-residential activities, but they are secondary to homes, schools and parks.

Some of our neighborhoods have been around nearly as long as the city – think “Old Town,” and some were formed more recently – think “The Arbors.” Neighborhoods are where some people spend most of their time and where others return to after school or a day’s work. Neighborhoods are where generally like-minded people live – those who enjoy peace and quiet will select a different neighborhood than will those who enjoy vibrant near-constant activity.

Some neighborhoods are mainly single-family homes with private yards. Some are primarily apartments or condos with students, young families or retirees. For a variety of reasons, some neighborhoods have frequent resident turnover while others remain quite stable.

Neighborhood Wellness is affected when a disruption takes place in a neighborhood. In SLO that most often occurs when young students seeking a vibrant lifestyle move into a neighborhood previously known for its peace and quiet for families of all ages. As we have seen, this is not a good mix.

GORDON MULLIN: Neighborhood- a subsection of a city or town with characteristics that distinguish it from the areas around it.

Neighborhood Wellness- I fully support the city initiative started in 2013 with community input. It’s about time that we took steps to preserve our neighborhoods. For the most impactful improvement, read below regarding Cal Poly.

DAN RIVOIRE: Neighborhoods are geographic areas of the city with unique cultural resources, resident demographics and housing density. In San Luis Obispo, the relationships between people living and working near one another define our neighborhoods. Positive relationships where neighbors are conscientious of what actions create joy or anger around them are essential to achieving excellent quality of life.

Noise and safety enforcement strategies are necessary but must be complimented with positive efforts promoting relationship building between neighbors. Block parties, welcome to the neighborhood traditions, and utilizing social media to strengthen lines of communication all represent healthy solutions to difficult problems. I am focused on a vision of happy neighborhoods where people respect others lifestyles and care for one another in times of need.