

# Speak Up! Expressing Support or Dissent for Public Projects

Featured Speaker: Connie Haas Zuber

**MAY 28 AT 5:30 PM**

**DOORS OPEN: 5:00 PM**  
FOOD PROVIDED!

Main Branch, Allen County Public Library / 900 Library Plaza  
Room: Old Maker Lab



Neighborhoods



Join us for "Speak up! Expressing Support and Dissent for Public Projects," part of the Neighborhood Power Lab Workshop series! Whether you're a neighborhood association leader or an engaged resident, knowing how to clearly and respectfully voice your perspective on public projects is an essential civic skill. This session will explore how residents can effectively communicate both support and concerns when engaging with local decision-makers and community stakeholders.

## Speaker Bio:

We're excited to have **Connie Haas Zuber** bring her invaluable insight from serving on and leading boards, in addition to facilitating workshops for them and covering their work as a journalist, to the workshop. Connie spent all four of her professional careers in Fort Wayne: her first as a newspaper journalist, her second running her own business as a consultant for non-profits on governance and data management, her third back in journalism but at a magazine and her fourth as executive director for a small non-profit. Along the way, she served on the boards of Friends of the Parks of Allen County, ACRES Land Trust and Quest Club, leading both Friends and Quest as president, and was president for the local Unitarian Universalist Congregation, in addition to serving as president of its district presidents association and national district presidents association. She currently serves as a citizen volunteer on the Fort Wayne Plan Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals and has been president of the Plan Commission for several years, which places her on two other boards (the Joint Governing Board and Joint Permitting Oversight Board).

## Workshop Description:

At this workshop, participants will spend 90 minutes learning how to effectively express both support and concerns about public projects that impact their neighborhoods. Whether it's a development proposal, infrastructure improvement, or community initiative, understanding how to engage constructively in public conversations can help ensure your neighborhood's voice is heard.

Participants will learn practical strategies for preparing public comments, organizing their thoughts, and communicating clearly with decision-makers, project teams, and fellow residents. The session will also explore how to balance advocacy with collaboration—offering constructive feedback while maintaining productive relationships with community partners and local officials.

The workshop will conclude with a hands-on activity where participants will practice crafting and delivering a short statement about a hypothetical public project, giving them the opportunity to refine their message and build confidence in speaking up. By the end of the session, you'll leave with tools and strategies to advocate effectively and thoughtfully for the future of your neighborhood.

*\*Dinner will be provided*

**Register at: [engage.cityoffortwayne.org/nhd-power-lab](https://engage.cityoffortwayne.org/nhd-power-lab)**