

NEIGHBORHOOD POWER LAB SERIES

Building Better Neighborhoods— Bylaw Best Practices

Featured Speakers: Benjamin Bailey and John Frandsen

OCTOBER 29 AT 5:30 PM

DOORS OPEN: 5:00 PM
FOOD PROVIDED!

Main Branch, Allen County Public Library / 900 Library Plaza
Room: Old Makers Space



Strong neighborhoods need strong foundations. Clear expectations and thoughtful structures can help neighborhood associations navigate challenges, welcome new leaders, and create opportunities for more residents to participate.

Join us for an interactive session focused on the building blocks of effective neighborhood organizations. Together, we'll explore how bylaws, leadership structures, and decision-making practices can strengthen your association and support healthier collaboration. Participants will leave with practical tools to identify opportunities for improvement, reduce confusion, and create a stronger foundation for their neighborhood's future.

Speaker Bio:

We're excited to have Ben and John join us!

Benjamin N. Bailey represents clients in real estate transactions involving commercial, industrial, rental, and residential properties, and provides guidance on environmental diligence and risk mitigation. He also supports economic development projects by assisting clients in securing state and local funding. Before joining the firm, Ben clerked for Justice Derek R. Molter of the Indiana Supreme Court. He has been recognized in *Best Lawyers®: Ones to Watch* for real estate law and serves on the Indiana State Board of Law Examiners. Ben earned his J.D. *summa cum laude* from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law

John Frandsen focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, corporate law, and business governance. He advises companies of all sizes on entity formation, operating agreements, and the purchase and sale of businesses, including due diligence and noncompetition matters. John is a member of both the Allen County Bar Association and the Indiana State Bar Association. He holds graduate and law degrees from Arizona State University and the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, where he served as Executive Managing Editor of the *Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies*.

Workshop Description:

The goal of bylaws isn't to create more rules—the goal is to create enough clarity that neighbors can spend less energy navigating confusion and more energy building community.

Healthy neighborhood associations are built on more than passion—they are supported by clear expectations, strong leadership structures, and practices that help neighbors work together effectively.

In this session, participants will explore the role bylaws play in creating sustainable neighborhood organizations. We'll discuss common organizational structures, including incorporation and nonprofit status, and examine the benefits and considerations of each option. Participants will also learn best practices for developing bylaws that support effective leadership, fair decision-making, and meaningful resident engagement.

Through guided discussion and practical review, attendees will identify common bylaw challenges, explore opportunities for improvement, and gain tools to strengthen their neighborhood association's foundation. Whether your association is creating bylaws for the first time or reviewing existing documents, this session will help you build structures that support collaboration, accountability, and long-term success.

**Dinner will be provided*

Register at: engage.cityoffortwayne.org/nhd-power-lab