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*enhancing the quality
of neighborhoods
through
community participation*

**City of Portland, Office of Neighborhood of Involvement
Great – Guidelines Review Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM, Lovejoy Room, Portland City Hall

MINUTES AND SUMMARY NOTES

Members Present:

Patricia Gardner, Co-Chair	Pearl District Neighborhood Association
Moshe Lenske, Co-Chair	Woodstock Neighborhood Association
Kathy Bambeck	Bridlemile Neighborhood Association
Nancy Chapin	Alliance of PDX Neighborhood Bus. Assocs.
Cathy Crawford	University Park Neighborhood Association
Leonard Gard	Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
Raymond Hites	Lents Neighborhood Association
Brian Hoop	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
David Lane	Office of Neighborhood Involvement
Michael O'Malley	Irvington Community Association
Mark Sieber	Neighbors West/Northwest
Charles Shi	Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries
Ruth Spetter	City Attorney's Office
William Warren	Central Northeast Neighbors

Absent

Jerry Powell	At-Large
Stanley Lewis	Downtown Community Association

Visitors

Lee Perlman	Media
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*Decisions by this group are subject to change at future meetings.
Opportunities for public input are at the end of meeting and future workshops.
These minutes have been approved and are final.*

**Information & Referral
Center**
503-823-4000

**Crime Prevention
Center**
503-823-4519

**Neighborhood Mediation
Center**
503-823-3152

**Metropolitan Human
Rights Center**
503-823-5136

**Civic Involvement
Center**
503-823-4519

Approval of Summary Notes

- Move boundaries to first category under basic requirements before membership.
- Take out district coalitions in the preamble and replace with neighborhood offices.
- Motion to accept minutes for Sept. 24, 2002. Passed.

Approved Recommended Code or Standards Revisions

- No formal vote taken on language at this meeting.

Summary Notes for Oct. 8, 2002

- Public meetings ad-hoc group considering if there could be a two-track structure.
- Discussion about minimum and maximum sizes of neighborhood associations.
- Strong interest in idea of minimum of 200 households and minimum of 10 acres or blocks.
- Consideration of a Guidelines committee that interprets the rules on specific issues.

Update on Public Meetings Ad-Hoc Group

Issues brought up:

- Discussed whether neighborhood associations are bound to state public meetings law. Looking for Circuit Court case that dealt with this issue.
- Members agree there needs to be some kind of public meetings law.
- Perhaps there can be a two-track process, if there is a land use law they could follow public meeting law. If the group is doing other business they do not have to follow state law.
- Discussion about use of email discussions and votes.

Proposals:

- No action.

Motions:

- No action.

Updates on Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries Ad-Hoc Group

Issues brought up:

- Group did not meet yet.

Proposals:

- Mark and Leonard wanted to be part of the committee.

Motions:

- Add Mark and Leonard to committee. Passed.

Standards for Neighborhood Associations

Issues brought up:

Discussion on the size of neighborhood associations

- What happens when some of the newer developments are created with over 200 households in one City block and they want to be an association? We need a minimum geographic size.
- Discussion on the disparity between large and small neighborhood associations. In east Portland there are groups with 6,000 households and a tiny association with 98 households.
- Discussion about how we define household. How do we deal with NINA – Northwest Industrial Neighborhood Association - which is industrial and has few households. Most association bylaws have provisions for industries to get only one vote.
- Discussion about maximum size of neighborhood associations. Montavilla is 15,000 people. Some think it is too cumbersome for a volunteer group to handle.
- Breakdown of coalitions and neighborhood associations is often precipitated by personality differences more than geographic or size issues.
- Small associations may be ineffectual to participate in City bureau planning issues if they are too small and don't have a broad range of relationships with basic City services.
- Different parts of Portland may have different perspectives on what is the best way to define what a neighborhood size should be.
- A large residential area may have no hot issues and few leaders. A small neighborhood may have lots of crime issues and active leadership. We need to be able to accommodate both.

New associations forming within existing associations

- Discussion about if a group is going to break away they should have to provide a rationale for why this is a good thing for long-term development of the neighborhood system.
- If we require lots of rules it may become too complicated for volunteer activists to even bother organizing to break away.

Other neighborhood association topics

- Discussion about ONI having the discretion to decide whether a proposed neighborhood association group meets the requirements. For example, if there are overlapping boundaries it may not be wise to encourage formation of a new group.
- Concern raised that City bureau boundaries, like Police precincts, do not always match up with neighborhood association boundaries.
- Dignity Village, within the Sunderland Association, has expressed interest in being an association. How do we address their needs?

Proposals:

- Suggestion made that we grandfather in all neighborhood associations and have a formula for new ones, which has rules about geographic and household size.
- Suggestion to have a cap on the number of neighborhood associations in the whole City.
- Suggest there must be minimum # of households to be a recognized.

- Suggestion to create a list of problems related to operating neighborhood associations so we can identify if they're related to geographic and population size of associations.
- Brian will do a survey of largest and smallest geographic size, population, and household size of associations.
- Suggestion to have minimum of 200 households and minimum 10 acres or 10 blocks.
- Suggestion made that a guidelines committee, meeting quarterly, would help interpret the guidelines, like on deciding whether to accept the creation of a new association.
- Suggestion to focus on boundaries section b, c, and d.

Motions:

- No motions.

These summary notes have been approved and are final.

The information contained in this document is preliminary and informal in nature and does not necessarily reflect the views or adopted policies of the City of Portland or the final outcomes of this project; the reader should exercise caution in its interpretation.

NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday, October 22
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Tuesday, November 12
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Tuesday, November 26
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
City Hall, Lovejoy Room, 1221 SW 4th Avenue

Prepared by: Brian Hoop, Office of Neighborhood Involvement