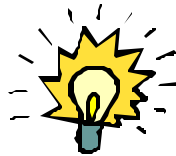


# What are the ONI Code & Guidelines? What is the GREAT committee?



## March 2004 Update

*Do we have to follow state open meetings law? Isn't there a simpler set of rules to follow?*



*How come I'm being expected to notify neighbors about our meetings if we don't have any money for a newsletter?*

*What do we do if we want to change our boundaries or they conflict with other associations?*



*Shouldn't there be a clearer process for resolving grievances?*

**You are welcome to attend the regular meetings and give public comments.**

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month  
8:30 AM - 10:00 AM  
City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave.,  
Lovejoy Room**

As required by City code, the ONI Guidelines are being updated. They have a significant effect on neighborhood associations.

Ask questions.  
Give us your comments.

**For more info:  
[www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023)**

# What are the ONI Guidelines & GREAT?

The ONI Guidelines, last adopted by City Council in January 1998, are to be reviewed and updated every four years. The Guidelines set forth the roles and responsibilities for recognized and acknowledged organizations in Portland's neighborhood system.

A committee of neighborhood leaders – the Guidelines, Review, Empowerment, and Assessment Taskforce (GREAT) - are near the completion of reviewing and updating the Guidelines as required by City Code. Taskforce participants are charged with recommending to the Commissioner-in-charge suggested changes, revisions, additions, and/or deletions to the Guidelines.

In addition, the Taskforce has chosen to analyze and update Chapter 3.96 of City Code that defines the functions of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Chapter 3.96 has not been updated since 1987. It is this chapter of City Code that refers to the adoption of a set of "Guidelines" that provides more details than City Code.

*You are welcome to attend the meetings and provide comment.*

**2nd and 4th Tuesdays,  
each month**

Committee conducts regular meetings and provides time for public comment.

**Next meetings:  
March 23, April 13 & 27,  
May 11 & 25**

**8:30 AM - 10 AM  
City Hall, Lovejoy Room  
1221 SW 4th Ave.**

**For info:** Brian Hoop  
503-823-3075  
bhoop@ci.portland.or.us

*If translation is required at meeting please notify us two days in advance. We will make every attempt to accomodate your request. Wheelchair accessible. On the downtown bus mall.*



## Who is on GREAT?

GREAT - Guidelines Review, Empowerment and Assessment Team - members are from neighborhood and business associations, district coalitions, unaffiliated neighborhood associations, communities beyond neighborhood boundaries and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. They will identify and discuss organizational policies that impact an individual's access to Portland's neighborhood system, the operation of the associations and coalitions, and their relationships with the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. You are welcome to attend meetings and make short comments during the public comment agenda time. Written comments are encouraged.

## ***What are some of the recent issues that have been proposed to be updated in the ONI Standards?***

### **Open Meetings and Public Records**

- Associations would no longer follow State Open Meetings Law, which is currently required by the City. State courts have ruled state open meetings law are not applicable to neighborhood groups. Proposed standards would be more accessible than complex state laws regarding open meetings, public records, minutes, notice, and dissent.
- Proposed language would include:
  - Clarification that all decisions shall be made at public meetings. No proxy votes.
  - What may be discussed and decided on at closed Executive Board meetings.
  - Explicit timelines for notice of meetings including a minimum of seven days for general public. Clarification on who are interested stakeholders needing direct notice.
  - Allow secret ballots for elections. Elections may be open for 24 hours.
  - Clarification of what records need to be retained and which are open to public inspection.

### **Office of Neighborhood Involvement**

- Clarify roles of ONI including contract management, leadership skills-training, inclusion efforts with diverse communities, and resolving grievances. Emphasis on assisting associations with building capacity to be more inclusive and build relationships with diverse groups.

### **Grievance Procedures**

- Create a more comprehensible grievance process outlining step by step how individuals resolve conflicts with a Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Office, and ONI.
- Clarification that grievances need to be related to bylaws or ONI Guidelines violations.
- Explicit timelines provided for resolving and appealing grievances.
- Clearer expectations upon grievant to limit frivolous grievances.
- District coalitions need to hear grievance appeals. Clarification on ONI's final rule-making role.

### **District Coalitions**

- Differentiate organizational, administrative, and operational differences between non-profit District Coalitions and city-administered District Coalitions.
- Expansion of newsletter rules to incorporate electronic communication funded by City dollars.
- Add role of assisting associations with building capacity to be more inclusive and build relationships with diverse groups.

## ***What are some of the issues that will be discussed in the near future?***

- Finalize how to deal with neighborhood associations moving from one coalition to another, creation of new coalitions, changing of boundaries, and transition of city-administered coalitions to non-profit status. Currently there is minimal guidance on how to address these.
- Proposal being considered for business associations would allow them similar rights and benefits accorded to neighborhood associations while still allowing collection of dues, not following open meetings law, etc.
- Revisit ONI section. Needs joint conversation with Public Involvement Task Force.
- Review and update procedures for amending the ONI Standards (Guidelines).

More info at ONI website:  
[www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023)

Contact Brian Hoop at:  
 503-823-3075  
 TTY 503-823-4519  
[bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us)  
 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 110



**How  
 can I  
 learn  
 more?**

P 347  
 Office of Neighborhood Involvement  
 1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 110  
 Portland, OR 97204



## ***What's next?***

The GREAT committee will be finalizing its work in the next several months. At that time there will be several more months of public review, comments and hearings. We will offer to visit your neighborhood association to help explain and discuss. The final recommendation will be submitted to the Commissioner in charge of ONI who will submit the proposals before Council for adoption.

## ***Comments? Contact committee members:***

### **Co-Chairs:**

- Patricia Gardner
- Moshe Lenske

### **Representing:**

Neighbors West/NW & Pearl District Neigh Assoc	503-243-2628
Southeast Uplift & Woodstock Neigh Assoc	503-774-0319

### **Other members:**

- |                     |   |              |
|---------------------|---|--------------|
| • Kathy Bambeck     | Southwest Neighborhoods & Bridlemile Neigh. Assoc.      | 503-245-2634 |
| • Nancy Chapin      | Alliance for Portland Neighborhood Business Assocs.     | 503-774-2832 |
| • Vacant            | North Portland Neigh Services                           |              |
| • Leonard Gard      | Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.                           | 503-823-4592 |
| • Raymond Hites     | East Portland Neigh. Office & Lents Neigh Assoc.        | 503-775-4812 |
| • Stan Lewis        | Unaffiliated assocs. & Downtown Community Assoc.        | 503-224-6502 |
| • Michael O'Malley  | NE Coalition Neighborhoods & Irvington Community Assoc. | 503-249-0117 |
| • Jerry Powell      | At-Large  | 503-222-7173 |
| • Vacant            | Central NE Neighbors                                    |              |
| • Mark Seiber       | Neighborhood coalitions executive directors             | 503-223-3331 |
| • Vacant            | Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries              |              |
| • City of Portland: | Brian Hoop, Jimmy Brown, Ruth Spetter                   |              |