

May 19, 2005

Executive Summary

The citizen-led committee, Guidelines Review Empowerment and Assessment Taskforce (GREAT) has completed its final draft of proposed update of rules governing Portland's Neighborhood and Business Association system. City Council will consider adoption of two documents: City Code Title 3.96, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, as well as the Guidelines –to be called Standards - for the neighborhood system.

Portland's Neighborhood Associations were first recognized by the City in 1974 with this directive from City Code 3.96: "Council finds that there is a need to broaden channels of communication between the people of Portland and City officials on matters affecting neighborhood livability."

The GREAT Taskforce has spent four years methodically reviewing, updating and matching two documents: first, City Code Title 3.96, the authorizing language for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement, which has not been reviewed since 1987; then the Guidelines, which detail the functions, responsibilities and benefits of Portland's neighborhood system including 95 Neighborhood Associations, 7 District Coalitions, 40 Business Associations and the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

The Taskforce is proposing to rename the Guidelines as "Standards" to more accurately reflect the directive of Code 3.96.030 establishing "Minimum Standards for Neighborhood Associations."

This revision of the Guidelines/Standards endorses and continues to emphasize the self-determining structure and autonomy inherent in each Association for determining its own bylaws, meeting formats, boundaries, and resolution of grievances. Indeed, Section III on Neighborhood Associations has changed little from the existing Guidelines. Careful attention was given to the role of District Coalitions, Office of Neighborhood Involvement, the grievance process, modified open meetings and public records procedures, and efforts to diversify participation in Associations.

The Standards will continue as a tool for ensuring that Portland's neighborhood system is accountable and transparent along with the goal of building Neighborhood Associations that are accessible to residents who want to contribute to improving the livability of their communities. In addition, we believe these proposed documents provide improved clarity by reorganizing roles and responsibilities that were previously scattered, i.e. topics dealing with Neighborhood Associations are now primarily in the same section.

Public comments provided this fall were the culmination of four years of continuous outreach to the community. Even before the public comment period there were three public workshops early in 2002 and 2003. Over 460 people attended 27 community meetings, which committee members attended this fall to discuss proposed changes. Over 5,000 summary sheets or full text of the proposal were distributed with 56 people providing formal comment.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, July 6th at 2 PM when we will present our proposals before City Council. Council Chambers are located in City Hall at 1221 SW 4th Ave. For more information or questions contact Brian Hoop at 503-823-3075 or bhoop@ci.portland.or.us. Or visit our web site at <http://www.portlandonline.com/oni/index.cfm?c=29023&>.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gardner
Co-chair

Moshe Lenske
Co-chair

Members of the Guidelines committee, GREAT

Chairpersons:

- **Moshe Lenske**, Woodstock Neighborhood Association, Southeast Uplift
- **Patricia Gardner**, Pearl District Neigh. Assoc., Neighbors West/Northwest

Committee members:

- **Kathy Bambeck**, Bridlemile Neighborhood Association
- **Nancy Chapin**, Alliance of Portland Neighborhood Business Associations
- **Catherine Crawford**, University Park Neigh. Assoc., North PDX, stepped down '03
- **Leonard Gard**, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.
- **Raymond Hites**, Lents Neighborhood Assoc., East Portland Neighborhood Office
- **Stanley Lewis**, Downtown Neighborhood Association, Unaffiliated Associations
- **Michael O'Malley**, Irvington Community Association, NE Coalition of Neighborhoods
- **Jerry Powell**, Goose Hollow Foothills League, Neighbors West/Northwest
- **Charles Shi**, Communities Beyond Neigh. Boundaries, stepped down in 2003
- **Mark Sieber**, Neighbors West/Northwest, District Coalition directors
- **William Warren**, Central Northeast Neighbors, stepped down early 2004.

City of Portland staff:

- **Brian Hoop**, Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- **Jimmy Brown**, Office of Neighborhood Involvement
- **Ruth Spetter**, City Attorney