

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



As required by City code, the ONI Guidelines are being updated. They have a significant effect on neighborhood associations. *(see inside)*. Ask questions. Give us your concerns.

*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**

## **Future meetings will discuss**

- District Coalitions and Neighborhood Offices
- Grievance Procedures
- Business District Associations

[www.portlandonline.com/oni](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni)

## 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 Taskforce of neighborhood leaders – the Guidelines, Review, Empowerment, and Assessment Taskforce (GREAT) - have begun a two year process of reviewing 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. The committee has only recently completed a first draft of updated code language. They just began discussions about the Guidelines this fall.

*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:  
Nov. 25, Dec. 9, Dec. 23** (may be cancelled), **Jan. 13, Jan. 27**

**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 issues that have been discussed in updating City Code 3.96, Office of Neighborhood Involvement?***

City Code, Chapter 3.96 is the law authorizing the basis for City recognition of neighborhood associations, district coalitions, and the responsibilities and benefits, sets the functions, duties, and responsibilities of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

Key update highlights:

- Re-naming the ONI Guidelines to ONI Standards to emphasize expectations of all partners.
- Biggest change is the reorganization of categories and their numbering to improve comprehension of responsibilities, benefits, functions and duties.
- More clearly delineate details of responsibilities and benefits, functions and duties of all partners between the ONI Standards instead of City Code. Currently they are scattered between Code and Guidelines.
- Clarifies difference between a District Coalition and a City run Neighborhood Support Office.
- Business Associations would be called Business District Associations.
- Responsibilities of City agencies still being debated between GREAT and Public Involvement Task Force. Proposal would require bureaus to develop written public involvement plans for major policy, planning, and capital improvement projects.
- Add responsibility of ONI and Neighborhood Offices to promote and support diverse and multicultural public involvement in the neighborhood system.

## ***What are some of the issues that have been discussed in updating the Office of Neighborhood Involvement Standards?***

Chapter 3.96 of City of Portland Code delegates ONI and a citizen committee meeting every four years to review and update the roles and responsibilities of the neighborhood system. Proposal is to change the title of the document from ONI Guidelines to ONI Standards:

Key update highlights:

- Biggest change is the reorganization of categories and their numbering to improve comprehension of responsibilities, benefits, functions and duties.
- The minimum size of neighborhood assocs. would be set at 100 acres and 200 households.
- Associations would no longer follow State Open Meetings Law, which they are currently required to do by the City, not the State. Instead they would be held accountable to standards outlined in this document which are more accessible than the complex state laws regarding open meetings, public records, minutes, notice, dissent, and other issues.
- Create a more comprehensible grievance process outlining step by step how individuals resolve conflicts with a Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Office, and ONI.
- Differentiate organizational, administrative, and operational differences between District Coalitions, which are independent non-profit organizations with City contracts, and Neighborhood Support Offices, which are managed by the City in the absence of a non-profit.
- Clarify roles of ONI including contract management, leadership skills-training, inclusion efforts with diverse communities, resolving grievances, info and referral services.
- Eliminate “Communities Beyond Neighborhood Boundaries” created in the mid-90’s. In its place strengthen role of Neighborhood Offices and ONI to provide resources and technical assistance to associations to be more inclusive and build relationships with diverse groups.

## ***What are some of the issues that will be discussed in the near future for the Office of Neighborhood Involvement Standards?***

There are several categories that are still unresolved which address Neighborhood Offices, Grievance process, and Business District Associations:

- Proposal being considered for Business Associations would allow them to continue to collect dues while allowing them all the rights and benefits accorded to neighborhood associations.
- Create a more comprehensible grievance process outlining step by step how individuals resolve conflicts with a Neighborhood Association, Neighborhood Office, and ONI.
- Differentiate organizational, administrative, and operational differences between District Coalitions, which are independent non-profit organizations with City contracts, and Neighborhood Support Offices, which are managed by the City in the absence of a non-profit.

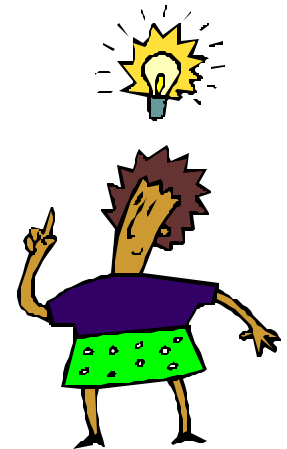
## ***What's next?***

The GREAT committee will be finalizing its work in the next several months. At that time there will be two or more months for public review and comment. 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.

## ***How can I learn more?***

Individuals may receive agendas and minutes by contacting Brian Hoop at 503-823-3075, or TTY 503-823-4519, or [bhoop@ci.portland.or.us](mailto:bhoop@ci.portland.or.us).

They may also be found on the ONI website at [www.portlandonline.com/oni](http://www.portlandonline.com/oni) and click on *Update on ONI Guidelines review - GREAT*.



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

### **Chairpersons:**

- |                    |  |              |
|--------------------|--|--------------|
| • Patricia Gardner | Neighbors West/NW & Pearl District Neigh Assoc | 503-243-2628 |
| • Moshe Lenske     | Southeast Uplift & Woodstock Neigh Assoc       | 503-774-0319 |

### **Other committee 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 |
| • William Warren    | Central NE Neighbors                                    | 503-823-2780 |
| • Mark Seiber       | Neighborhood coalitions executive directors             | 503-223-3331 |
| • City of Portland: | Brian Hoop, Ruth Spetter                                |              |