

Section	Summary of Comments	Quotes from Comments
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Summary of Public Comment

City Code 3.96: Office of Neighborhood Involvement

January 2, 2005

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Section	Summary of Comments	Quotes from Comments
Section 3.96.020: Definitions		
3.96.020, B Definition of Neighborhood	Concerned about the term “self-selected” in definition of Neighborhood.	One comment <i>“The term “self-selected” in the definition of “neighborhood” is confusing. Is it intended to mean that you are in a particular neighborhood by virtue of choosing to live there?”</i>
3.96.020, B & C Definition of Neighborhood Association	Retain original definition of Neighborhood Association. Prefers the broader parameters for defining a Neighborhood Association. Believes that the proposed definition limits the name of Neighborhood Association only to those groups that have been recognized by the City. Believes this would unnecessarily limit Neighborhood Associations that may not wish to be “recognized” by the City from interacting with the City bureaus, Council and other organizations in policy-making procedures.	One comment <i>“The existing statute definition for neighborhood association appears to be consistent with its stated purpose, which acknowledges that there may be neighborhood associations that have a legitimate right to call themselves a "neighborhood association," whether or not they are "recognized" by ONI and the City. The existing ordinance acknowledges that neighborhood associations can fall into two categories, those who are "recognized" and those who are not. It reads, "A neighborhood association may be "recognized" by the City." Conversely, in section C of the proposed statute the revision defines a neighborhood association as being "formally recognized by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement." The original wording, which included the distinction "may be recognized" should be retained in the document. “</i>

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3.96.020, E Definition of Business Association and role in Neighborhood system	Retain current code language that does not include Business Associations as part of the overall neighborhood system. Business interest should have to work through Neighborhood Associations. They already have adequate resources to access Council and should not receive any public financial support. Inclusion of Business Associations is a continual deviation from ONI's original purpose to focus on support of Neighborhood Associations.	One comment <i>" The existing statute does not include business district associations. Conversely, beginning in the section on purpose and included throughout the proposed statue is the inclusion of business associations. The inclusion of business district associations should be removed from the statute and Guidelines entirely, including definitions and references (e.g. purpose, section E definition etc.)."</i>
3.96.020, F Definition of Standards	Remove the reference that defines this document as "Standards", or "Guidelines". These names are without purpose. If we do give them a name they need to be defined as regulations which are to followed and enforced. Anything less would be ambiguous.	One comment <i>"Added to the proposed statute is section F, which uses and defines the term "standards." The inclusion of this term, and use of the term "guidelines" should be removed"</i>
Section 3.96.030: Neighborhood Associations		
3.96.030, A and 3.96.030, D, 1 Minimum Standards for Neighborhood Associations, merge two sections	Suggestion by GREAT committee member that 3.96.030, D, 1 should be merged into 3.96.030, A: Minimum Standards for Neighborhood Associations. 3.96.030 A should read: Minimum Standards for Neighborhood Associations: To receive and <u>maintain</u> formal recognition, Neighborhood Associations shall meet the Standards for neighborhood public involvement. Any Neighborhood Association meeting the Standards is entitled to benefits pursuant to the Standards.	One comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1171 854 2003 954">❑ <i>"I added the word "maintain" to make it clear that NAs can't meet the Standards when recognized and then slide afterward.</i> <li data-bbox="1171 964 2003 1065">❑ <i>I dropped the term "adopted Standards." If they're not adopted, they're not really Standards. That term, "adopted Standards" may come up elsewhere, as well.</i> <li data-bbox="1171 1075 2003 1321">❑ <i>I dropped the language about NAs being NAs being entitled to recognition if they meet standards. That issue is covered in 3.96.060H and I'm concerned about saying that prospective NAs are entitled to recognition. What if there are competing organizations to represent an area and both meet standards? I think ONI has to have some discretionary authority in recognizing NAs."</i>

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3.96.030, B, 1 Functions of Neighborhood Associations	There's a typo at 3.96.030,B,1. It should be "on any topic", not "or any topic".	One comment
3.96.030, C and former 3.96.060, B Maintain requirement to follow State open meetings & Public records	Do not drop existing section 3.96.060, B requiring Neighborhood Associations to follow municipal and state statutes, rules and regulations relating to open meetings and public records. This is an important measure for retaining accountability in the neighborhood system. Apparently proposed section VIII in the Standards on Open Meetings and Public Records is not sufficient.	One comment <i>"A. All groups, organizations and associations should obey all laws and be held accountable for doing so. B. Neighborhood associations should have to comply with public records laws. It is wrong to carve out exceptions and it is the first step in losing accountability. C. Public records and public meetings law shed light on ONI, seemingly GREAT, ONI and City staff want to turn the light off."</i>
3.96.030, C, 2 Including City agencies in neighborhood planning activities	Suggest that #2 be changed to read: "Neighborhood Associations shall include affected City agencies in planning activities which affect neighborhood livability and shall adhere to relevant policies, standards, and planning processes of the affected agencies."	One comment <i>"This would discourage citizens from getting too far along in their planning before they think to check in with the City. In the case of PP&R, people often move forward with their idea (fundraising, etc.) before contacting us to learn what is actually required. The resulting frustration or disappointment could be avoided with this addition to the code."</i>
3.96.030, D, 1 Benefits to Neighborhood Associations	In 3.96.030D1, "as per" sounds a bit conversational. How about "pursuant to"?	One comment
3.96.030,D,2 and 3.96.060, H Authority of ONI to revoke	Suggestion by GREAT committee member to drop section 3.96.030, D, 2, which describes how if an Association fails to meet minimum requirements ONI may suspend partial or all benefits and/or revoke formal recognition. This section is supposed to be about benefits, not punishment.	One comment <i>"In 3.96.030D2, it says that ONI "may ultimately" revoke recognition. That suggests to me that ONI can revoke only as a last resort, after it has exhausted other sanctions, like suspension of benefits. I don't think we should imply that. There may be cases where revocation should be immediate, and we</i>

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recognition status	<p>He points out that authority is already listed in 3.96.060, H. Modify this section to make it clear ONI can have the authority to revoke recognition immediately.</p> <p>Also note that it says ONI can revoke recognition of Neighborhood and Business Associations. ONI only acknowledges Business Associations.</p>	<p><i>don't want grievances that other sanctions weren't tried first. Also, the same language is at 3.96.060H. Perhaps we should drop D2 altogether and modify 060H. 030D is supposed to be about benefits but D2 is only about punishment, not benefits."</i></p>
<h2>Section 3.96.050: Responsibility of City Agencies</h2>		
<p>3.96.050</p> <p>Responsibilities of City Agencies, expanding role of neighborhood associations in City planning</p>	<p>Concern raised that the Standards are becoming too overbearing considering there is not commensurate improvements or requirements for City bureaus to provide quality public involvement in budget, policy/ planning, and capital improvement efforts.</p> <p>This section should require specific City public involvement services that have been dropped in the past ten years such as or new ideas being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Needs Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Small Grants Program <p>Neighborhood Associations should have a vote on all-important major budget, policy, planning and capital improvement projects affecting their neighborhood livability.</p>	<p>Three comments</p>
<p>3.96.050, A</p> <p>Responsibilities of City Agencies, what is meant by "policy decisions"</p>	<p>The code does not specify the extent of what is meant by "policy decisions." Our concern is that the language requiring notification is too encompassing ("planning efforts or other actions affecting livability"). Recommend amending this section so that it more specifically defines when notification is required and reduces the potential for failure or other unintended consequences.</p>	<p>One comment</p> <p><i>"The code does not specify the extent of what is meant by "policy decisions." Our concern is that the language requiring notification is too encompassing ("planning efforts or other actions affecting livability"). It seems like one could reasonably argue that this is the essence of what government does.</i></p>

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		<p><i>This language is already part of the code and has resulted in complaints to our office over the City's failure to provide notification. We expect that as more people discover the provision, bureaus will be subjected to more complaints as a result of not meeting the notification requirement. Our interest is to avoid having a requirement in code that will not be complied with..</i></p> <p><i>By leaving this broad language in the code, actions taken by the City may be in jeopardy for not following this notification process. We strongly recommend amending this section so that it more specifically defines when notification is required and reduces the potential for failure or other unintended consequences.”</i></p>
<p>3.96.050</p> <p>Responsibilities of City Agencies</p> <p>Ballot Measure 37 notification</p>	<p>Now that Measure 37, dealing with administration of land use laws, has been implemented Neighborhood Associations should be ensured notification of claims or waivers of rules within their boundaries. This notification should be codified in this section.</p>	<p>One comment</p> <p><i>“ Under Responsibility of City Agencies, a section D should be added to the revisions, reading "City agencies shall provide notice to all neighborhood associations of all applications for waivers under Ballet Measure 37 and all claims for damages made under the Measure's provisions that come from property owners within the neighborhood association's boundaries.”</i></p>
<h2>Section 3.96.060: Responsibility of the Office of Neighborhood Involvement</h2>		
<p>3.96.060</p> <p>Responsibilities of Office of Neighborhood Involvement</p>	<p>The introductory section should refer to “persons” instead of “public”. Original language referred to “citizens.” Public is an ambiguous word.</p> <p>Also remove references to Business Associations.</p>	<p>One comment</p> <p><i>“ Under Responsibility of ONI, in the introduction section, the existing statue refers to "citizens." In the revised statue, the term "citizens" has been replaced with "public." The word "public" should be replaced with the word persons. In addition, as suggested above "Business District Associations" should be removed from the regulations governing neighborhood associations. “</i></p>

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<p>3.96.060, B or a new item</p> <p>ONI's role in assisting City agencies on public involvement efforts</p>	<p>Add (as B), "Assist City agencies in developing project-specific strategies to encourage public participation."</p> <p>The concern asks the perennial question what role should ONI have in assisting other City agencies with public involvement strategies and special projects.</p>	<p>One comment</p> <p>This quote applies to all of Parks and Rec's comments: <i>"City agencies certainly consider ONI, Coalitions, and neighborhood associations as critical stakeholders when developing and implementing public involvement plans. However, the concept of City agencies as critical stakeholders for ONI and the Coalitions when facilitating participation is missing throughout both the City Code and ONI Standards documents."</i></p>
<p>3.96.060, G</p> <p>Including City agencies in updating of ONI Standards</p>	<p>Add, ". . . city agencies that engage in considerable public involvement activities . . ." to the last sentence.</p> <p>The intent seems to be to ensure City agencies have a voice in updating of future ONI Standards.</p>	<p>One comment</p>
<p>3.96.060, I and J</p> <p>Promoting diverse public involvement</p> <p>And establishing open and fair grievance procedures</p>	<p>Concern that not enough is being done to address historical and institutional barriers for communities of color to participate in Neighborhood Associations.</p>	<p>One comment</p> <p><i>"I have been involved with the Neighborhood Association process for over 25 years and I have watched with dismay as people of color communities were systematically dismantled and dispersed to outside of Portland. Once thriving communities were undermined by City policies and people of color were forced to evacuate Portland and now reside in outlying suburbs where they do not enjoy the same access to schools, infrastructure, transportation, housing quality, cultural entertainment, etc.</i></p> <p><i>The role of Neighborhood Associations in this process has seldom, if ever, been addressed. I believe that the structure of ONI and Neighborhood Associations has contributed to the lack of participation by people of color. My experience has been a lukewarm, and at times hostile, reception within my Neighborhood Association. Attempts to call attention to the problem through grievances has met with little support from ONI, District Coalitions (SWNI), and Neighborhood</i></p>

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		<p><i>Associations (CTLH).</i></p> <p><i>It has been my own dogged resolution and persistence that has allowed me to continue participation. I do not believe that this condition should be continued. It is my belief that the City would benefit from the full participation of all its citizens (including people of color) and that only then would issues of inequality in housing and residential quality be addressed.”</i></p>