



Board Responsibilities

The Basics

Commitment to the public good

Neighborhoods in the NWNW coalition area function as Oregon Non-profit organizations and some are recognized federally. This requires neighborhood associations to be committed to the missions within the by-laws.

Accountability to the public

Neighborhood boards are responsible to your membership to examine all issues that come forward critically, from multiple perspectives.

Commitment beyond the rules & law

Following your neighborhood bylaws, articles and corporate non-profit laws is just the beginning. Understanding the intentions behind the rules often benefits your organization instead of simply focusing on the rule itself. For example, transparency encouraged in the open meeting rules & meeting notifications, but it also encourages more people to get involved.

Respect individual worth & dignity

Run meetings and organizations that are respectful of individuals and promotes Inclusiveness, social justice, pluralism & diversity. Welcome new members to your organization. Though neighborhoods are participatory organizations, the board has a responsibility to consider perspectives outside their own.

Stewardship of Resources

Board members are responsibly for managing the resources entrusted to you. This includes avoiding conflicts of interest and the perception of a conflict between the interests of the neighborhood and personal, professional and business interests. All conflicts should be declared & the board member removed from the discussion and decision making process.

Spotlight: Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty

Board members serve on committees, hold officer positions, plan neighborhood events, and volunteer their time. Term limits vary, and some neighborhoods have no term limits. One outstanding board members is Joan Pendergast. Joan has worked tirelessly for the Pearl District for over a decade. During that time she has worked as the neighborhood president, recruited countless new board members and served on the neighborhood coalition board, as well as co-chairing committees and participating in countless Pearl



District events. Joan has the best interests of the neighborhood at the forefront of her mind. When individuals call to comment about the Pearl District, she offers helpful suggestions, and often recruits these new contacts to serve on the neighborhood board or a committee. Then they can make a bigger difference than they intended to make initially. Joan works full-time for the neighborhood as a volunteer, and her neighborhood hopes that she doesn't burn out anytime soon. Good luck to Joan as she continues to support the Pearl!

