

2.100 Neighborhood Associations.

(1) Purpose. The purpose of these sections is to establish a means for formally recognizing neighborhood associations and to provide for neighborhood associations communication with the City. This is an additional form of communication, and is not intended to inhibit other citizens or groups from communicating with the City.

(2) Neighborhood Association. A “neighborhood association” means any group of people organized within a geographical area for the purpose of acting on issues affecting neighborhood and community livability. A recognized neighborhood association is one that satisfies the standards of subsection (4) of this section.

(3) Neighborhood District. A neighborhood district incorporates a group of neighborhood associations within established boundaries. Neighborhood districts may be formed by the City to enhance communication between neighborhood associations and the City, but shall not preclude a neighborhood association from meeting its responsibilities under subsection (4) of this section. Neighborhood district boundaries shall be logical, contiguous and follow identifiable physical features such as streets, property ownership boundaries, topographic features, boundaries of political jurisdiction, or City rights-of-way, and shall be mutually agreeable to the affected associations.

(4) Standards. In order to be recognized by the City, neighborhood associations must satisfy the standards listed herein. The City Council is authorized to determine when an association has met these standards:

(a) Membership. The membership of a neighborhood association shall not be limited by race, creed, color, sex, age, heritage, national origin or income. Any resident, business owner or owner’s representative, nonprofit organization’s representative or property owner who resides, owns property or maintains a business within the recognized boundary of a neighborhood association shall be entitled to membership and to vote.

(b) Boundaries. The boundaries of a neighborhood association shall be drawn by the association membership. These boundaries must be mutually exclusive of other formally recognized associations and must remain within or coincide with the boundaries of a single neighborhood district, if one exists. The City Council is authorized to make adjustments to boundaries if necessary to avoid creation of an area that is excluded from neighborhood association representation.

(c) Bylaws. In order to be considered for recognition by the City, a neighborhood association must first adopt written bylaws that provide for the following:

(i) That the officers be elected on a regular schedule, at least bi-annually;

(ii) That meetings be conducted in conformance with public meetings law when the association meets to act in an advisory capacity to the City. Advisory capacity exists when the City requests or the association on its own accord seeks to act in an advisory

capacity to the City; that written minutes as required by open meetings law also be required to show minority opinions and a list of all those voting, and that copies of approved minutes and sign-in lists be available to the City for public review;

(iii) That a current map of the association boundaries and a current list of the association officers and their addresses be provided to the City annually;

(iv) That a minimum of one general neighborhood association meeting be held each calendar year, and the time, place and purpose be well publicized throughout the neighborhood prior to the meeting;

(v) That the association provide for representatives to its neighborhood district if one exists;

(vi) That the City be informed of any updates or amendments to the neighborhood association's bylaws; and

(vii) That procedures are developed describing the number of members required for a quorum, how votes are taken and recorded, and the action necessary to file an appeal.

(5) Responsibility of City. The City shall provide recognized neighborhood associations with the following:

(a) Timely notification of meetings of the Council, and the Planning Commission, and upon request, any Council advisory board or commission whose decisions may affect the neighborhood;

(b) General information regarding City services and activities.

(6) Appeals.

(a) Formally recognized neighborhood associations may appeal land use decisions made by the Planning Director or Planning Commission to the appropriate bodies without cost if the Planning Director finds:

(i) Community Development Code Appeal Procedures, Sections 99.140 and 99.240 through 99.300, are followed;

(ii) The association submits a copy of the membership minutes and vote taken supporting the appeal;

(iii) The neighborhood association appeal is related to the property within the association's recognized boundaries.

(b) In addition, an association may appeal without cost on behalf of an individual or group with standing who is not represented by a recognized association if subsections (6)(a)(i) and

(ii) of this section are met and the neighborhood association finds the issue(s) are of City-wide concern related to the West Linn Comprehensive Plan or the West Linn Community Development Code.

[Amended by Ordinance No. 1371, adopted 03-27-95; amended by Ordinance No. 1375 adopted 08-10-95; amended by Ordinance No. 1398 adopted 08-26-96; amended by Ordinance No. 1427 adopted 12-14-98; amended by Ordinance No. 1465 adopted 01-17-01; amended by Ordinance No. 1467 adopted 02-14-01; amended by Ordinance No. 1490, adopted 12-04-02; amended by Ordinance No. 1491, adopted 12-18-02; amended by Ordinance No. 1495, adopted 06-04-03; amended by Ordinance No. 1497, adopted 08-20-03; amended by Ordinance No. 1504, adopted 05-05-04; amended by Ordinance No. 1524, adopted 09-12-05; amended by Ordinance No. 1531, adopted 01-23-06; amended by Ordinance No. 1533, adopted 02-27-06; amended by Ordinance No. 1537, adopted 04-24-06.]