

Neighborhood Organization Policy Discussion

- Goal: Review existing policies and receive direction on making changes, if necessary.

Neighborhood Organization Policy

- Neighborhood Organization Policy
 - Adopted September 6, 1977
 - Purpose of policy is to “involve citizens in local governmental planning and decision making”.
 - Formalizes communication between City and neighborhood associations.
 - Membership open to all property owners and tenants.
 - Homeowners associations are not eligible for direct recognition under current policy.

Homeowners Associations

- Homeowners Associations
 - Official non-profit organizations recognized under state law.
 - Formed to protect property rights and values of homeowners.
 - Enforce covenants and restrictions through civil means.
 - Membership open to property owners only.
 - Separate neighborhood association must be formed in order to receive Council recognition under current policy.

Business Area Recognition Policy

- Business Area Recognition Policy
 - Adopted August 18, 2003.
 - Emulates Neighborhood Organization Policy in formalizing communication between City and business organizations.
 - Membership intended primarily for businesses.
 - There are no organizations recognized under this policy.

Issues for Discussion

- Benefits of formal recognition.
- Possible policy changes.
- Geographical boundary issues.

Benefits of Formal Recognition

- Formalized communication between City government and organization contacts who, in turn, communicate with members.
- Potential funding opportunities.
- Recognized “voice” of groups, based on geography.
- Others?

Possible Policy Changes

- Create one policy that allows recognition of multiple types of organizations.
- Define neighborhood as a geographic area.
- Amend neighborhood policy to allow recognition of homeowners associations.
- Develop process to deal with dormant associations.

Council's Ability to Deal With Changing Boundaries

- Associations in agreement amend boundaries through letters to Council.
- Develop petition process for Council submission in cases of neighborhood disagreement.
- Changing boundaries: Proposal more accurately reflects significant social, demographic or other interests in the geographic area.
- Preventing overlap: Proposal is a detriment to the geographic area.

Council's Ability to Deal with Inactive Organization

- Inactivity: Organization has not fulfilled the responsibilities outlined in the neighborhood organization policy for two years or more.