

East Portland Neighborhood Office Advisory Committee

Goals of the East Portland Neighborhood Office

The East Portland Neighborhood Office is one of seven coalition districts throughout the city of Portland. We are funded by the City of Portland through the Office of Neighborhood Involvement (ONI) to implement a community involvement program.

Key goals of the community involvement program

1. increase the number and diversity of people involved in their communities
2. strengthen community capacity
3. increase community impact on public decisions

East Portland Neighborhood Office Advisory Committee

The charge of the committee is to provide recommendations and advice on EPNO program and budget. The EPNO budget is approximately \$270,000 annually of City of Portland general fund dollars. Participants would guide how these City funds and our other resources are used to best support our goals of community building and civic engagement in East Portland.

Proposal for Advisory Committee Process

Who: Anyone actively involved in community building in East Portland would be welcome. A goal for the group would be to have diverse participants with a broad range of perspectives. Participants are expected to attend as many meetings as possible. If attendance is not possible, the participant should review the information missed with staff before the next meeting.

Proposed schedule: The number and type of meetings will be determined by the interests and energy of the group. The group may decide to have additional meetings, create sub-committees for specific topics, or share information by other means. The schedule below gives a framework of tasks that need to be covered. The first year may require more time than later years as the group will be forming, and the five-year agreement for the operation of the office will be renewed in July 2015. The committee may want to participate in revisions to this agreement.

1. Fall - Orientation to group and program
 - Participant introductions
 - Confirm the process and how the group will work together
 - Understand program goals and direction
 - Understand the existing EPNO budget and workplan

2. November/December - New ideas - budget advocacy
 - Consider program scope and change
 - Plan advocacy for funding from the ONI and City budget process

3. April - Develop workplan and budget for next year
 - Start planning budget & workplan for the next year
 - Review programs to be continued
 - Consider changes to programming

4. June - Recommend budget and workplan - and celebrate
 - Agree on the budget and workplan for the next year
 - Celebrate the year's accomplishment

Consensus decision-making process: Consensus is collaborative decision-making. It creates room for many perspectives to be considered and stresses cooperation, inclusiveness, and participation of all involved. Decisions made by consensus are those that all participants can accept.

Currently, consensus decision-making is being successfully used by the Office of Neighborhood Involvement Bureau Advisory Committee, the East Portland Action Plan, and the Columbia Slough Watershed Council.