



Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission

Agenda Item: 6

Advisory Information

Title: Guide for Participation in Neighborhood Organization Committees

Action Discussion Informational

Date: February 19, 2014

Prepared By: Robert Thompson

Attachments: Draft Guide on Neighborhood Bylaws

Requested Action

NCR is requesting review and feedback on the attached draft guide on Participation in Neighborhood Organization Committees.

Background

NCR regularly reviews neighborhood organization bylaws for conformity with the eligibility criteria and standards and expectations identified in the Community Participation Program (CPP) Guidelines. NCR has questioned, and occasionally required changes to, neighborhood organization bylaws provisions or other practices that may present barriers to participation in committees or other activities. Naturally, the NCR frequently gets questions from neighborhood organizations and others about Community Participation Program (CPP) requirements for participation in committees.

In addition to reviewing bylaws, NCR encourages outreach to residents, and particularly to impacted stakeholders, and under-represented constituents who may be impacted or otherwise have an interest in neighborhood organization recommendations and decisions.

Discussion

The attached document is based on the requirements of the Community Participation Program Guidelines. It is also guided by discussions we have had with neighborhood organizations when NCR proposed changes to their bylaws or practices, or questions they have had about organizational governance.

Development of the practices recommended in this document are also in part guided by basic principles common to parliamentary procedures such as Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Those principles are based on balancing the rights of individuals or groups:

- The rights of the majority to make a decision;
- The rights of the minority to be heard;
- The rights of individual members;
- The rights of those not present;
- The rights of all of these together.

Recommendations

Review, discuss, and provide feedback to NCR staff for revision. This document may also be reviewed by City attorneys and outside legal counsel, and the NCR Access and Outreach Team.