

ADM-4.02 - Citizen Involvement Principles

Citizen Involvement Principles

Binding City Policy

BCP-ADM-4.02

PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the City of Portland is nationally recognized for its long tradition of community participation and citizen activism; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland believes that timely and informed involvement of citizens can result in City policies, projects and decisions which the citizens understand, accept and feel vested in; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Neighborhood Associations was created in 1974 and exists today as a key link in the communication between City Hall and the diverse citizens of Portland; and

WHEREAS, City Council annually provides financial support to district coalition and network organizations to enable them to provide technical assistance and to the 90+ neighborhood associations active in Portland; and

WHEREAS, City bureaus allocate significant staff and financial resources in their efforts to generate, facilitate and respond to citizen input and involvement in policy- and decision-making; and

WHEREAS, as it is desirable that citizens' and City staff's time and financial resources are used efficiently and effectively, it is incumbent upon City staff to communicate, coordinate and collaborate whenever appropriate with other City bureaus, other governmental agencies, and with citizens; and

WHEREAS, in a collaborative effort, the District Coalition Chair's group and City staff have written an Outreach and Involvement Handbook to assist City bureaus in designing and implementing effective citizen involvement.

POLICY

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council adopts the attached [Citizen Involvement Principles](#) and directs City bureaus and agencies to integrate these principles into their programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council directs City Bureaus and agencies to make use of the Outreach and Involvement Handbook and other resources available to ensure that the City and its citizens reap the benefits of effective, high-quality citizen involvement.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PRINCIPLES

As elected officials and staff of the City of Portland, we believe that effective citizen involvement is essential to good governance. We recognize that elected officials, staff and citizens all play important roles in governing the city. We believe that collaboration between the City and citizens will result in the best policies and decisions for all of Portland. To this end, the City of Portland commits itself to promote and sustain an environment that creates and responds to citizen involvement. We hold that the success of citizen involvement depends on:

- Mutual respect of all parties;
- Informed and involved citizens;
- City officials and staff who recognize their role in facilitating and responding to citizen input;

To carry out our commitment, we adopt these guiding principles of citizen involvement:

1. Value civic involvement as essential to the health of the city.
2. Promote on-going dialogue with citizens by maintaining relationships with neighborhood and community groups.
3. Respect and encourage citizen participation by ensuring that City communications and processes are understandable.
4. Reach out to all our communities to encourage participation which reflects Portland's rich diversity.
5. Think creatively and plan wisely, using citizen involvement processes and techniques to best fit the goals of the particular project.
6. Seek early involvement of citizens in planning, projects, and policy development.
7. Consider and respond to citizen input in a timely manner, respecting all perspectives and insights.
8. Commit to coordinate City bureaus' outreach and involvement activities to make the best use of citizens' time and efforts.
9. Evaluate and report on the effectiveness of City outreach efforts to achieve the quality of City/citizen collaboration critical to good governance.
10. Promote on-going education of citizens in neighborhood and community groups, and City officials and staff in community organizing, networking, and collaboration.
11. Provide financial and technical support to Portland's neighborhood association network as the primary channel for

citizen input and involvement.

HISTORY

Resolution No. 35494

Adopted by the Council February 7, 1996.