ENERGIZE
our
NEIGHBORHOODS

CITY of BOISE
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
TOOLKIT
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INTRODUCTION

The City of Boise Neighborhood Association Toolkit will help you establish the neighborhood association, grow membership, sustain operations, and impact decisions affecting your community. It is organized around four core actions:

1. Establish
2. Grow
3. Sustain
4. Impact

WHAT IS A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION?

A Neighborhood Association is a group of community members who organize, share ideas, and cooperate to improve their neighborhood. Membership is voluntary and open to all stakeholders, including neighbors, businesses, and other organizations within a neighborhood. The voluntary and open nature of a neighborhood association differentiates them from homeowners associations, which are associated with individual subdivisions and typically compulsory.

By forming a neighborhood association, members work toward common goals. With a unified voice, they respond to community concerns, preserve and improve their neighborhood, plan and hold social events and interface with local government and organizations.

Information about existing neighborhood associations can be found on the City of Boise website (energize.cityofboise.org). The City of Boise also provides a variety of resources to the community that can be found here.
ESTABLISH

FOLLOW BEST PRACTICES

Follow best practices for formation, record keeping, and communicating to ensure continued organizational success.

CHECKLIST

- Develop Bylaws (See: Write Bylaws)
- Submit Articles of Incorporation to the State of Idaho and send a copy to City of Boise
- Keep records of meetings and financial transactions
- File for 501c3 status (See: Form a Nonprofit)
- Follow Idaho Open Meeting Law
- File tax reports annually
- Renew tax-exempt status annually
- File annual incorporation report with the Secretary of State
- Review bylaws, position descriptions, and neighborhood plans every 3-5 years

RESOURCES

Idaho Secretary of State Website
sos.idaho.gov/

KEY QUESTIONS

- Who will be responsible for keeping and organizing records?
- What vision do you have for the neighborhood?
ESTABLISH

KEY QUESTIONS

• What plans and policies apply to your neighborhood?
• What parts of City Code might help or hinder your plans?

REVIEW EXISTING CITY INFORMATION

Be informed: know what plans, ordinances and laws apply to your neighborhood and the concerns of its residents.

CHECKLIST

☐ Consult Blueprint Boise, the city’s comprehensive plan which outlines policies to manage growth
☐ If your neighborhood has already developed a neighborhood plan, review it online: Boise’s Neighborhood Plans
☐ Review Boise City Code for regulations related to your neighborhood
☐ Reach out to the city’s Neighborhood Coordinator with questions regarding existing plans

RESOURCES

Blueprint Boise
pds.cityofboise.org/planning/comp/blueprint-boise

Boise City Code
cityclerk.cityofboise.org/city-code/

City of Boise Neighborhood Planning Guide
energize.cityofboise.org/media/80684/NeighborhoodPlanningGuide.pdf

Boise’s Neighborhood Plans
energize.cityofboise.org/neighborhoods
ESTABLISH AN ASSOCIATION

Establish a neighborhood association to improve your neighborhood. Before submitting paperwork, review the Follow Best Practices section, contact the City of Boise Neighborhood Coordinator and organize with neighbors.

CHECKLIST

- Check there isn’t already an association in your neighborhood
- List of current Neighborhood Associations
  energize.cityofboise.org/neighborhoods/neighborhood-planning/
- Determine the geographic boundaries of your neighborhood
- Speak with the city’s Neighborhood Coordinator
- Connect with the broader community, including labor, faith, school or professional groups
- Invite all stakeholders to a meeting in a local and neutral location, such as a library or public schools
- Establish an association

RESOURCES

City of Boise Neighborhood Planning
energize.cityofboise.org/neighborhoods/neighborhood-planning/

University of Nebraska: Organizing a Neighborhood Association
lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/neighborhoodassoc.shtml

City of Sioux Falls Neighborhood Association Handbook (pg. 5)

KEY QUESTIONS

- Why start a Neighborhood Association?
- Who might be early supporters in your neighborhood?
- What reasons are driving the community to establish an association?
ESTABLISH

KEY QUESTIONS

• What is the purpose of your organization?
• What vision do you have for your neighborhood?
• What values are important to your community?

WRITE A MISSION STATEMENT

Write a mission statement to clarify the association’s purpose.

CHECKLIST

☐ Discuss members’ motivations for joining the neighborhood association
☐ Discuss neighborhood concerns, assets and character
☐ Develop a shared vision for the neighborhood based on your discussions
☐ Write a mission statement that encompasses the vision and values of the association that will guide planning and action

RESOURCES

Bplans: Writing A Mission Statement
articles.bplans.com/writing-a-mission-statement/

The Balance: How to Write a Mission Statement
www.thebalance.com/how-to-write-a-mission-statement-2948001
ESTABLISH

KEY QUESTIONS

• How will you keep your records for the application process?
• Who in the association might be knowledgeable about nonprofits?
• Who will take the lead on registering the association?

FORM A NONPROFIT

Form a nonprofit to determine the association’s tax liability and improve eligibility for grants from community organizations. A neighborhood association’s eligibility for Energize Our Neighborhoods Neighborhood Investment Program may be affected its nonprofit status.

CHECKLIST

☐ Review information from the Idaho Secretary of State, IRS, and Idaho Tax websites
☐ Choose at least 3 people for an initial board of directors, including a President, Vice President and Secretary
☐ File Articles of Incorporation with the Idaho Secretary of State (Costs $30 for typed application)
☐ File IRS Form 1023 for tax exempt status (Costs a minimum of $275, possibly more depending on your organization, consult the Neighborhood Planner for assistance in securing funds for filing costs)
☐ Obtain an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the IRS
☐ Review tax information from Idaho Tax website

RESOURCES

• Idaho Nonprofit Center: Starting a Nonprofit  
  www.idahononprofits.org/starting-a-nonprofit
• Idaho Secretary of State  (www.sos.idaho.gov/)
• IRS Website  
• NOLO: How to Form an Idaho Nonprofit Corporation  
ESTABLISH

KEY QUESTIONS
• What officer positions do you need?
• What responsibilities should board members have?
• What are the boundaries of your association?

WRITE BYLAWS
Write bylaws to clarify organizational structure, liability, and decision-making procedures. Due to the City of Boise’s financial support of neighborhood associations, bylaws must be approved by the city to ensure that they do not violate the law. The City of Boise also provides a template of bylaws for those who are interested.

☐ Review the regulations for your organizational structure
☐ Write your bylaws collaboratively (See Bylaws Appendix)
☐ Have association members read and edit the bylaws
☐ Hold a meeting to vote on your proposed bylaws
☐ Send finalized bylaws to the City of Boise Neighborhood Coordinator for legal approval

RESOURCES
University of Nebraska-Extension: Organizing a Neighborhood Association
lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/neighborhoodassoc.shtml
WRITE JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Write position descriptions that address the needs of the association. These descriptions should define the responsibility of board members, officers, and other members while providing clarity and direction to association members.

CHECKLIST

- Establish what needs your association may have and the necessary positions to address them
- Write duties and responsibilities, including priorities and term limits
- Determine skills and competencies required to perform the duties and responsibilities
- Define to whom a board member or officer reports
- Review job descriptions periodically to ensure they continue to be relevant

RESOURCES

U.S. Small Business Association: Writing Effective Job Descriptions
ESTABLISH

KEY QUESTIONS
- How will the association keep track of finances?
- How will the association make decisions about purchases?

SET UP A BANK ACCOUNT
Set up a bank account so that the association can handle the money necessary to pay for events, communications, and projects.

CHECKLIST
- Research local financial institutions
- Compare services and fee structures of local institutions against the association’s needs
- Work with the institution you choose to set up an account
- Delegate the duty of recording financial transactions
- Determine a process for discussing finances at every meeting

RESOURCES
Nonprofit Accounting Basics: Choosing the Right Commercial Checking Account Your Nonprofit
www.nonprofitaccountingbasics.org/banking/choosing-right-commercial-checking-account-your-nonprofit
KEY QUESTIONS

- Appendix 3
  Financial Management Self-Assessment Tool

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Responsible financial management supports association success. To assess the association’s financial management practices, use the Financial Management Self-Assessment Tool (Appendix 3).

CHECKLIST

To start, you should have four things:

1. Budget
2. Plan for taxes
3. Procedures for handling money
4. Accounting processes

RESOURCES

Check out these other financial management resources:

- National Council of Nonprofits Financial Management Tools & Resources

- Principles & Practices for Nonprofit Excellence from the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
**ESTABLISH**

**KEY QUESTIONS**
- What concerns does the association have?
- Where does the association want to be in 3-5 years?
- What are the short and long-term goals and plans?

**SET ASSOCIATION GOALS**
Set goals for the neighborhood association to direct your efforts and efficiently use time.

**CHECKLIST**
- Identify broad areas of neighborhood concern among members
- Consider how each of these concerns may be interrelated
- Prioritize concerns into a succinct list
- Define goals related to the association's concerns
- Break down goals into actionable tasks
- Assign tasks to specific association members and/or committees

**RESOURCES**
National Association of Sales Professionals: The Secret of Setting Successful Goals
www.nasp.com/article/D1A3CC1E-2D49/the-secret-of-setting-successful-goals.html
CONDUCT EFFECTIVE MEETINGS

Hold meetings regularly (every first Monday of the month, for example) to plan action. Respect people’s time by planning meetings beforehand and tabling irrelevant discussions. Meetings plan action; events provide education and socialization.

CHECKLIST

- Hold meetings at a time that is convenient for working adults
- Plan meetings beforehand, include a pre-distributed agenda
- Delegate a chairperson who will keep the meeting on task
- Follow Robert’s Rules of Order, if deemed appropriate
- State the purpose of the meeting at the start and review what has happened since the last meeting
- Assign tasks as needed during the meeting
- Remind attendees of the date, time and location for the next meeting

RESOURCES

Robert’s Rules of Order
www.robertsrules.org

Community Toolbox: Conducting Effective Meetings
csb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/leadership/group-facilitation/main

govleaders.org/meetings.htm
GROW

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the association’s goals?
- What needs does the association have?

RECRUIT MEMBERS

Recruit new members to grow the neighborhood association’s capacity for new projects. Start by communicating a consistent and specific purpose and increase the association’s presence online and at community events. Be inclusive.

CHECKLIST

- Articulate the association’s purpose
- Increase visibility through outreach
- Build relationships with other organizations (Non-profits, religious orgs., businesses, etc.)
- Ask members to reach out to their own networks
- Match people’s skills and interests to the needs of the association
- Be appreciative of current members

RESOURCES

Salem, OR: Getting People Involved: Neighborhood Association Manual
/www.orcities.org/Portals/17/a-z/govern040.pdf
SPOTLIGHT

NEIGHBORHOOD AWARDS

Raise awareness about the neighborhood association by highlighting well-loved characteristics of your neighborhood – gardens, landscaping, volunteerism, etc. These types of awards are great ways to start conversations about the association with residents who are not already involved with the association.

AWARD IDEAS

- Garden of the Month
- Volunteer of the Year
- Best Holiday Decorations
- Most Helpful Neighbor
- Tastiest Pies on the Block
KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the association’s goals?
- What is the budget?
- What formats make sense for the audience and budget?

CREATE A COMMUNICATION PLAN

Create a communication plan to strategically reach more community members. Consider creating short and long-term plans that align with the association’s goals.

CHECKLIST

- Define the communication goal
- Define the target audience (Be specific!)
- Choose the best context and format to reach your audience
- Choose a method to evaluate the plan’s effectiveness
- Assign people to create and distribute any media
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the plan

RESOURCES

Neighborhood Marketing Guide (NeighborWorks)

Marketing Plan: Exactly What to Include (Forbes)
www.forbes.com/sites/davelavinsky/2013/09/30/marketing-plan-template-exactly-what-to-include
SPOTLIGHT

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

MOST EFFECTIVE CHANNELS

1. **Face-to-Face**
   People appreciate, and are more responsive, when engaged directly.

2. **Social Media**
   If you are able to connect with folks on Social Media, it is an easy and effective way to communicate.

3. **Doorhangers/Flyers**
   Doorhangers more directly engage neighbors and are harder to ignore than other forms of engagement.

4. **Nextdoor**
   If your neighborhood is already active on Nextdoor.com, tap into the energy.

5. **Email**
   While some prefer email, it is impersonal and easier to ignore. However, if you already have a large email contact list, use it to your advantage.

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**ANALOG**
- Flyers
- Sandwich boards
- Door hangers / leaflets
- Bulletins
- Face-to-face

**TRADITIONAL MEDIA**
- Radio advertisement
- Television
- Newspaper

**DIGITAL**
- Email newsletter
- Website
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Nextdoor
Hold events to engage and celebrate your community, recruit volunteers, and educate neighbors. Effective events have a specific purpose and plan. For example, Neighborhood Associations must hold at least one annual event or meeting to connect with their neighbors and elect board members.

**CHECKLIST**
- Determine why you want to hold an event
- Consider the time of year, the weather, and local resources when planning
- Establish a list of tasks and supplies needed
- Delegates responsibility

**RESOURCES**
- [How to Plan an Event](www.wildapricot.com/articles/how-to-plan-an-event)
- [Event Planning Checklist](www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/event-planning-checklist/)
WRITE A PRESS RELEASE

Write and send press releases for association events to reach a broader audience.

CHECKLIST

☐ Plan a newsworthy event
☐ Use the press release template to structure your content (see Appendix #3 Press Release Template)
☐ Include personal, memorable quotes from people involved
☐ Write a concise, compelling story about the event
☐ Submit the press release to news outlets

RESOURCES

Write A Press Release (eHow)
www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Press-Release

NPR Digital Training
training.npr.org/category/digital/

KEY QUESTIONS

- Which news outlets might run a story on an event?
- What is the focus of your story?
GROW

KEY QUESTIONS
• What are the needs of the association?
• How will you match peoples’ skills and interests with the needs of the association?

MANAGE VOLUNTEERS
Manage volunteers to maintain the association’s capacity to affect change in your community. Management includes recognition, recruitment and retention of people for volunteer roles.

CHECKLIST
☐ Tell the volunteer how their role aligns with larger goals and why it is needed
☐ Ask about personal goals and how they might fit with the association
☐ Ask them to do a clear and specific job
☐ Make sure the volunteer can do their assignment well
☐ Give volunteers help in person
☐ Thank volunteers regularly

RESOURCES
Recruiting Volunteers
ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/volunteers/recruiting/main
Managing and Retaining Volunteers (9 great subsections!)
knowhownonprofit.org/people/volunteers/keeping
FORM COMMITTEES
Form committees to focus attention on specific neighborhood association projects or concerns. Focuses can either be internal or external, such as fundraising or establishing a Neighborhood Watch group.

CHECKLIST
- Identify specific issues that warrant more association attention
- Define the purpose, boundaries, and long-term agenda of the committee
- Vote on the necessity of forming a special committee

RESOURCES
- City of Boise Police Department Neighborhood Watch
  police.cityofboise.org/crime-prevention/neighborhood-watch/
- American Library Association: Effective Committees: The Basics
  www.ala.org/yalsa/sites/ala.org.yalsa/files/content/aboutyalsa/yalsahandbook/effectivecommittees.pdf
SUSTAIN

KEY QUESTIONS
- Who has energy and motivation to see the group succeed?
- Who in the association has shown the ability to work well with others?

CULTIVATE LEADERS
Cultivate fresh leadership to maintain lasting, innovative and vibrant neighborhoods. To cultivate leaders, the organization must share responsibility and decision making.

CHECKLIST
- Keep a list of current members and contact information
- Encourage members to attend leadership training offered in the community
- Note members who communicate well, want the group to succeed, are knowledgeable about the neighborhood and know how to share power

RESOURCES
- Forbes: 5 Ways to Identify Prospective Leaders
  www.forbes.com/sites/glennllopis/2012/12/10/5-ways-to-identify-prospective-leaders/#12ee8c9f1f88
SUSTAIN

KEY QUESTIONS
- What will new leaders need to know?
- What lessons were learned?
- How did the previous leadership overcome challenges?
- Is there anything you wish you knew before you became a leader?

TRANSITION LEADERS
Transition leaders to keep the neighborhood association energized. During leadership transitions, communicate expectations and responsibilities to new leaders. Transitioning every 2-4 years helps sustain engagement.

CHECKLIST
- Association members should nominate new leadership during elections
- After elections, old and new leaders should meet to discuss responsibilities
- A list of pertinent tasks and information about the position should be provided to new leadership

RESOURCES
- Speak with previous members of the board about materials they may have.
- Leadership Advice
  www.forbes.com/sites/mikemyatt/2013/06/17/5-transitions-great-leaders-make-that-average-leaders-dont/#32e314b933df
TRANSITION

One way of helping with leadership transitions is to provide documents detailing prior efforts, lessons learned and any helpful contact information. Also keep in mind that previous presidents are great resources. See Appendix 4 Leadership Transition document for an example of a transition document produced by the East End Neighborhood Association.

DOCUMENTS

- Appendix 4
  Leadership Transition
IMPACT

KEY QUESTIONS
• Why does the association need funds?
• How much do you need?
• Can you make this project sustainable?
• How can you fundraise to meet the short and long-term goals of the association?

FUNDRAISE

CHECKLIST
☐ Delegate a board or association member to lead a fundraising effort
☐ Generate ideas relevant to your neighborhood – advertising in your newsletter, rummage sales, etc.
☐ Research funding sources in the local community
☐ Identify local businesses that may be willing to partner on specific efforts or provide services at a discounted rate

RESOURCES
Boise Public Library Nonprofit Funding Resources
www.boisepubliclibrary.org/research-learning/nonprofit-funding-resources/
Rochester Neighborhood Resources Center: Fundraising Ideas and Tips
www.neighbors.org/?page_id=2185
KEY QUESTIONS
• What is the association requesting the grant funds for?
• Does the association understand the requirements and parameters of the grant?
• Does anyone in the association have grant writing skills?
• Does the association have the capacity to manage the proposed project?

APPLY FOR GRANTS
Apply for grants several months prior to starting impactful projects in the neighborhood.

CHECKLIST
- Research local, state, and federal grants that may be relevant to your project
- Brainstorm the story of how the project would impact your neighborhood
- Identify how to measure the effectiveness of the project
- Delegate the task of writing the grant to a member with strong writing skills
- Delegate to other neighborhood association members to review and edit the grant application

RESOURCES
Boise Public Library Nonprofit Funding Resources
www.boisepubliclibrary.org/research-learning/nonprofit-funding-resources/

Grants.gov: Grants Learning Center
www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants.html
ENERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM

• To be eligible for grants, a neighborhood association must be officially recognized by the City and the project must be planned in a public space.

• To learn more and apply, visit (under the Grants tab): energize.cityofboise.org/toolkit/

ENNERGIZE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The City of Boise offers Energize Our Neighborhoods Neighborhood Investment Program (ENNIP) – formally known as the Neighborhood Reinvestment Grant program. Contact energize@cityofboise.org about upcoming trainings on the ENNIP program.

The Energize Our Neighborhoods Neighborhood Investment Program (ENNIP) program is part of the City’s Energize Our Neighborhoods initiative. The program funds comprehensive neighborhood plans, capital construction to help enrich the lives of our residents, enhance the identity and quality of life in our neighborhoods and encourage a strong sense of community.

The ENNIP program is comprised of two distinct types of funds: Mini-Grants and Capital Grants. Neighborhood associations are eligible to apply for a Mini-Grant each year to support engagement, events, and communication expenses incurred by the association. Associations may request up to $2,000.

Capital funding supports projects that contribute to strong and healthy neighborhoods through citizen involvement and engagement in the identification, planning, and implementation processes.
KEY QUESTIONS

- What situation are you addressing?
- What message are you trying to convey?
- What is the most effective way to communicate with decision makers?

ENGAGE WITH CITY COUNCIL

Engage with City Council to influence decisions at every level of local government. Prepare for any engagement beforehand. Neighborhood associations get 15 minutes to present as an organization during public meetings.

CHECKLIST

- Familiarize yourself with how City Council meetings are conducted
- Reach out to the City Clerk’s office for additional information
- Research and prepare all necessary materials ahead of time
- Discuss the association’s position as a board and do outreach to all members of your community to represent all positions
- Practice, practice, practice.
- When you present, regardless of how you may feel, be friendly and respectful

RESOURCES

City of Boise - Office of the City Clerk
cityclerk.cityofboise.org/
KEY QUESTIONS

- What situation are you addressing?
- What message are you trying to convey?
- What is the most effective way to communicate with decision makers?

ENGAGE WITH CITY COMMISSIONS

Engage with city commissions to influence decisions at specific levels of local government. Prepare for any engagement beforehand.

CHECKLIST

- Research the various commissions and committees, such as the Parks Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, Historic Preservation Commission and Open Space and Clean Water Committee
- Check the schedule for the commission or committee in which you are interested
- Familiarize yourself with any long-term plans that the commissions have produced
- Discuss the association’s position as a board and do outreach to all members of your community to represent all positions
- Practice, practice, practice.
- When you present, regardless of how you may feel, be friendly and respectful

RESOURCES

City Meetings
boisecityid.iqm2.com/Citizens/Default.aspx
COMMON ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

The City of Boise is unique because Ada County Highway District (ACHD) controls roadways and sidewalks in Boise. For that reason, contact ACHD regarding transportation concerns.

- Explore ACHD Community Programs
  achdweb.achdidaho.org/Departments/PlansProjects/CommunityProg.aspx
- Research ACHD Plans
  achdweb.achdidaho.org/Departments/PlansProjects/Default.asp

CITY BUDGET

Visit the City’s Budget library to review relevant documents.


City Council

citycouncil.cityofboise.org/

CRIME

Start a Neighborhood Watch program in your neighborhood.
police.cityofboise.org/crime-prevention/neighborhood-watch/

INFILL / NEW DEVELOPMENT

Attend Planning and Zoning Commission hearings to stay apprised of plans and comment on existing projects.
pds.cityofboise.org/planning/hearings/

PARKS

Parks and Recreation Commission

parks.cityofboise.org/about-us/commissioners/

Open Space and Clean Water Committee

parks.cityofboise.org/open-space/boise-city-open-space-and-clean-water-advisory-committee/
KEY QUESTIONS

• Is the neighborhood threatened by potential wildfires?

ADDRESS WILDFIRE DANGER: FIREWISE®

Idaho’s summers are hot and the fire danger is high. Many neighborhoods in Boise face a fire risk. Thankfully, there are programs to assist with the process of mitigating the danger. In particular, working with the City of Boise Fire Department, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Forest Service, and others to become Firewise® accredited is a great way to confront the danger of wildfires.

CHECKLIST

☐ Educate yourself about Firewise®, and how to become accredited. Review the Firewise® Toolkit for more information

☐ Identify people interested in protecting the neighborhood

☐ Contact the Firewise® Idaho manager on how to become accredited:

Brett Van Paepeghem
Idaho Firewise | South Project Manager
brett@idahofirewise.org | phone: 208-373-3854
1387 S. Vinnell Way | Boise, ID 83709

RESOURCES

Firewise
www.firewise.org/

City of Boise Wildlife Urban Interface Map
fire.cityofboise.org/media/3575/57462_FirePreventionSafetyWUIMap.pdf

Interagency Foothills Management Plan
parks.cityofboise.org/media/995575/interagency-plan-february-2015.pdf
NEIGHBORHOOD TOOLKITS
FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

- **Lincoln, Nebraska**  
  Neighborhood Association How To’s: Advice on starting and maintaining a neighborhood association, with some details specific to Lincoln, Nebraska  
  [lincoln.ne.gov/city/urban/reports/pdf/NAHow2.pdf](lincoln.ne.gov/city/urban/reports/pdf/NAHow2.pdf)

- **College Station, Texas**  
  Taking Action! A Manual for Neighborhood Associations  
  [City of College Station, Texas](www.cstx.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=2926)

- **Pocatello, Idaho**  
  Building a Strong Neighborhood Association, NeighborWorks Pocatello  

- **Wichita, Kansas**  
  Neighborhood Toolbox, Wichita, Kansas  
  [www.wichita.gov/Council/Pages/ToolBox.aspx](www.wichita.gov/Council/Pages/ToolBox.aspx)

- **Irving, Texas**  
  Starting a Neighborhood Association: A Guide for Successfully Creating a Neighborhood Association, Irving, Texas  
  [cityofirving.org/DocumentCenter/View/506](cityofirving.org/DocumentCenter/View/506)

- **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
  Neighborhood Association Handbook  
  [siouxfalls.org/community-development/economic-development/neighborhoods](siouxfalls.org/community-development/economic-development/neighborhoods)
APPENDICES

1. Who to call at City Hall?
2. ENNIP Process Diagram
3. Financial Self-Assessment Tool
4. Leadership Transition Document Example
5. Neighborhood Association vs. Homeowners Association
   • Templates
   • Bylaws
   • Articles of Incorporation
   • Press Release
Energize Our Neighborhoods is a collaboration between Boise's residents, public and private partners, and the City to keep our neighborhoods unique and desirable. It focuses on aligning community resources to improve livability and make measurable change.

Boise's residents are blessed with a safe community and high quality of life, and our neighborhoods are vital to our city's success. This handout deals with minor code violations that can have a dramatic impact on neighborhood quality.

EnergizeOurNeighborhoods.org

Abandoned Vehicles: Call (208) 972-8150 to report vehicles abandoned on the street longer than 24 hours, or to report abandoned/inoperable vehicles on private property.

Alleys: Must not be used for storing grass clippings, tree limbs, misc. junk/rubbish; (208) 972-8150.

Animals: Call Animal Control to report barking dogs, dog feces, dogs at large, animal carcasses on public property, animal bites, animal cruelty and neglect, loose livestock and animal hoarding; (208) 343-3166.

More than four adult dogs/cats require a non-commercial kennel license from the City Clerk; (208) 972-8150.

Auto Repair: Major auto repair is prohibited in a residential district; (208) 972-8150.

Detached Accessory Structures: Detached accessory structures (such as sheds and carports) must be to the side or behind the main structure; (208) 608-7100.

Fences: All fences, walls, lattice work or screens require zoning approval. Fences in historic districts require a Certificate of Appropriateness. No electric fences are allowed. Max. fence height is 6 ft; except in front of a house it is 3 ft for a solid fence or 4 ft for an open-vision fence. (208) 608-7100.

Fireworks: “Safe and Sane” fireworks are allowed in the City of Boise. All fireworks are illegal in the Foothills; (208) 377-6790.

Graffiti: Owners are responsible for removing graffiti from their property. To report graffiti, call (208) 377-6790.

Grandfather Rights (Legal Non-Conforming Use): Some uses restricted by current zoning regulations are allowed if the use was legally allowed at the time of annexation or law change; (208) 608-7100.

Grass/Weeds: Grass or weeds that are 12 inches or higher and may be hazardous to the public must be cut to 3 inches or less. Owners should maintain their property so as not to cause erosion or dust. Owners are also responsible for maintaining parkways and alleys by their properties; (208) 972-8150.

Home Businesses: With zoning approval, some businesses may be operated out of a home; (208) 608-7100.

Irrigation/Canal Water: Call the appropriate irrigation district, canal company, or ditch rider for resolution, or Boise Project Board of Control: (208) 344-1141. For more info, call Idaho Dept. of Water Resources; (208)287-4800.

Licensing: Businesses, Child Care Facilities, Dogs, Public Info Requests, Solicitor, Vendor; Contact City Clerk at (208) 972-8150.

Livestock: A minimum of 1 acre is required to keep livestock in Boise. The number of livestock depends on the type of animal. Roosters are prohibited. (208) 972-8150.

Neighborhood Watch: Call Boise Police; (208) 577-6070.

Noise: Prohibited if amplified noise can be clearly heard within residence or at a distance of over 100 feet; (208) 377-6790.

Parking Issues:
• Storing vehicles, boats, motor homes and trailers on a residential
street for more than 72 hours is prohibited.

- Parking on unimproved surfaces such as dirt, grass or gravel is prohibited. Gravel surfacing is allowed for non-required parking spaces; (208) 972-8150.

- Parking a vehicle for sale, except on your property or at dealer is prohibited; (208) 972-8150.

- Parking commercial vehicles in residential areas, except for pick-ups and deliveries, is prohibited; (208) 972-8150

- Parking in alleys over 30 minutes is prohibited; (208) 377-6790.

**Police (Non-Emergency)** (208) 377-6790.

**Public Nuisance:** Call Code Compliance about outside litter, debris, car parts, junk vehicles, old furniture, appliances, mattresses, tires, building materials, recyclable materials and trash cans. (208) 972-8150.

**Recycling:** Boise’s curbside recycling program is no-sort (other than glass). (208) 608-7136 or curbit.cityofboise.org.

**Sewer:** Sewer system, connections, construction, odors, manhole covers, etc.; Public Works at (208) 608-7150.

**Sidewalks:** Keep sidewalks free of all obstructions. Bushes and shrubs must be trimmed back from the sidewalk. Overhanging shrubs/trees must be trimmed at least 8’ above sidewalks; (208) 972-8150.

**Signs:** Most signs require a permit. Temporary signs are not allowed on a public right-of-way. (208) 972-8150.

- **Real Estate Signs:** One per parcel and not on public right-of-way.

- **Yard Sales:** Two yard sales allowed per residence per calendar year; maximum of three days per sale. Advertising on public property/right-of-way and on power poles is prohibited.

**Storm Water:** Report pollutant issues to the Storm Water Pollution Hotline; (208) 395-8888.

**Street Lights:** Contact Public Works for information concerning public street lighting; (208) 608-7500.

**Traffic Signage:** Contact Ada County Highway District; (208) 387-6140.

**Traffic, Speeding Complaints:** Call (208) 577-3857 or go to boisepolice.org.

**Trash/Garbage:** Call Republic Services to schedule free pick up of large items such as appliances, sofas, etc.; (208) 345-1265. More info at curbit.cityofboise.org.

- **Computers, TVs, & Fluorescent Lights** can’t be disposed with trash. Take them to a household hazardous waste drop-off site (EnviroGuard vehicle) or Ada County Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Business waste must go to the Landfill. Call (208) 577-4736 or (208)608-7136.

- **Hazardous Waste:** Fluid or solvents with poison, caution, warning, or danger labels are hazardous waste and cannot be disposed with regular trash. Other hazardous waste includes fluorescent bulbs, pesticides, and paint. Take materials to the nearest Household Hazardous Waste Collection or Ada County Landfill Facility. Business waste must go to the Landfill. Call Ada County Landfill at (208) 577-4736 or (208)608-7136.

**Zoning:** For information about zoning ordinances, call (208) 608-7060.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

All area codes are (208)

### ADA COUNTY

ada county.id.gov

- Ada County Highway District: ... 387-6100
- Ada County Assessor: ............... 287-7200
- Ada County Haz. Waste Facility: 577-4736
- Ada County Landfill: ............... 577-4725

### CITY OF BOISE

cityofboise.org

- Building Permits: .................... 608-7070
- City Clerk: ........................ 972-8150
- Code Compliance: ................. 972-8150
- Fire Dept: .......................... 570-6500
- Mayor’s Hotline: .................... 972-8520
- Parking Tickets: ..................... 972-8150
- Parks and Recreation: .......... 608-7600
- Police (Non Emergency): ........ 377-6790
- Street Light Issues: ............... 608-7150
- Trash/Recycling: .................... 608-7136
- Utility Billing: ......................... 384-3735
- Zoning Permits: ..................... 608-7100

### OTHER

- Air Quality Daily Index Update: ... 373-0313
- Better Business Bureau: ........ 342-4649
- Boise School District: .......... 854-4000
- Crime Stoppers & Tips: .......... 343-COPS
- Dept. Environmental Quality: ...... 373-0502
- Emergency Preparedness: 800/237-3239
- ID Dept. of Water Resources: .... 287-4800
- Mosquito Abatement: ............. 577-4646
- Neighborhood Watch: ............. 570-6070
- Noxious Weeds/Gophers: ........ 577-4646
- Republic Services (Trash): ...... 345-1265
- Storm Water Hotline: .......... 395-8888
- Vehicle Licensing: ................. 577-3100
- West Ada School District: ...... 855-4500
- Wood Burning Ban Hotline: ...... 384-3828
Your Responsibility

- Attend Grant Workshop
  - Nov.-Dec.

- Write Application
  - March-August

- Upload to ZoomGrants
  - August

- Application Opens
  - March

City’s Responsibility

- Review
  - August-Sept.

- Choose and Notify
  - October

- Awarded
  - October

- Mini-Grant
- Capital

- Front the Money
  - 1 year allocation

- Submit Reimbursements
  - On Zoomgrants

- Project Management
  - 3-5 Year Allocation

- Project Completed!
  - Good Work Team!

- Reviewed and Confirmed
  - 2 week

- Processed Internally
  - 1 Week

- Reimbursed!
  - Wahoo!

- Project Completed!
  - Good Work Team!
Financial Management
Self-Assessment Tool

This tool will inform discussions about your Association’s current financial management practices and help you improve in other areas.

It was adapted from *The Nonprofit Association of Oregon Financial Management Self-Assessment Tool* to better serve Neighborhood Associations.

**Budgeting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Association:</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>Inadequately Achieved</th>
<th>Partially Achieved</th>
<th>Fully Achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keeps an annual budget which includes sources and uses of funds and grants</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporates grant and contract agreements with funders into the budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authorizes the budget by board vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrates financial issues into planning processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Includes risk assessment and identification of insurance coverage needs into financial planning processes</td>
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</table>
## Execution

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has written policies and procedures for fiscal operations: purchases, accounts payable, accounts receivable, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Follows internal processes and procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Separates duties of authorizing, recording, and making purchases among different individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keeps cash reconciliation sheets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assigns bank reconciliation to someone who neither makes bank deposits nor prepares checks.</td>
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</table>

## Recording

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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keeps a chart of accounts that includes Assets, Liabilities, Net Assets, Revenues, and Expenses</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses the same line item categories and the same function distinctions which the budget uses for the chart of accounts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciles grants and contracts documentation against records</td>
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<tr>
<td>Records all contributions in the accounting records.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### Reporting

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<tr>
<th>The Association:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prepares separate statements or revenue for each funding source.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconciles the excess (deficit) of support and revenue over expenses (net income) to the change in fund balance between the beginning and ending of the accounting period.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approves annual reports by board vote</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submits reports to appropriate organizations and agencies.</td>
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</table>

### Monitoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reviews the organizations financial statements to ensure that funds are used consistently with the organization’s mission.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews the organizations financial statements to ensure that it has adequate cash and other liquid assets to meet its current obligations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintains awareness of the IRS requirements for maintaining tax exempt status and evaluates the organization’s activities, use of funds, record keeping, and IRS reporting to assure compliance with all requirements.</td>
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</table>
Tiffany, the prior President of the East End Neighborhood Association put together this document (formatted into a month-to-month task list) to help smooth the entry of the new EENA President – Brittney.

**Things to Remember**

- **January**
  - Set annual meeting date and reserve Roosevelt Gym
- **March**
  - Meeting
  - Discuss annual meeting and guest speakers
  - Create annual meeting flyers
    - Cam does printing and signs
    - Sandy designs flyers
    - Lee does flyer separating and contacts people for distribution
  - Notify Kathleen Lacy with the city as to the date
  - Ask someone on the board to prepare the slate for April’s meeting so board can approve
- **April**
  - Notification of NRG by mayor
  - Printing of annual flyers by second week of April
  - Distribution of flyers by 3rd week of April
  - Set meeting with Travis at Roosevelt to insure setup in ok for meeting
  - Discuss annual meeting agenda
  - Present slate for board elections and have board vote
- **May**
  - Annual meeting usually first Wednesday of the month
    - Presentation of the slate
  - Set dates for fall/ winter month meetings held at Adams and submit reservation
  - Elections of board members
  - Designate picnic committee
- **June**
  - First meeting at Quarry View park
- **July**
- Remind board members to start thinking of grants for coming year
- Follow up with picnic committee

**August**
- Discuss proposed grants for coming year
- Follow up with picnic committee and talk flyers
  - Cam does printing and signs
  - Lee does flyer separating and contacts people for distribution

**September**
- Annual picnic
- First meeting at Adams for fall/ winter months
- Remind board members that grant applications are due soon

**October**
- Submit grants through zoom grants
- Discuss if Nov and Dec will be held due to holidays
  - Holiday party
  - Check with Roosevelt Market

**December**
- Holiday party at Roosevelt Market
- Reserve park for annual Picnic of coming year

For reservations at Adams or Roosevelt school contact
- Ann at 208-***-****
- Roosevelt custodian, Travis, for set-up at annual 208-***-****
- Independent school district facilities & operations
  - 208-***-****

For reservations through Parks and Rec
- 208-608-7600 Ext 1
  - cityofboise.org/parks
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Neighborhood Association</strong></th>
<th><strong>Homeowners Association</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purpose – Build community within a designated geographic area, represent neighborhood and may present neighborhood approved issue statements during City of Boise public hearings, apply for capital and/or communication projects through the City of Boise Neighborhood Reinvestment Program</td>
<td>Purpose – Enforce covenants, conditions, and restrictions (CC&amp;Rs) for individual subdivisions, membership is tied to purchase of a home within the subdivision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary, No Dues</td>
<td>Mandatory participation, must pay monthly or annual dues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No enforcement powers</td>
<td>Legal entity that can enforce contracts with homeowners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation required</td>
<td>Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board elected by association members, officers may be elected by membership or by the Board of Directors</td>
<td>Board elected by association members, officers may be elected by membership or by the Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File annual reports with Idaho Secretary of State’s Office and City of Boise Neighborhood Planning Program</td>
<td>File annual reports with Secretary of State’s office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>File annual IRS report</td>
<td>File annual IRS report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Must be approved by Boise City Council</td>
<td>No affiliation with City of Boise</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Produced by City of Boise Planning & Development Services Department
September 20, 2016
Bylaws

The bylaws template for neighborhood associations is currently under legal review. Once completed, it will be included in an updated version of the Toolkit.

In the meantime, please contact the Energize Our Neighborhoods program with questions.

Energize Our Neighborhoods
energize@cityofboise.org
Neighborhood Association Name Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: NAME – PHONE NUMBER
EMAIL

Neighborhood Association Writes Press Release

BOISE MONTH DD, YEAR – Paragraph 1: Introduction that summarizes key information, including who, what, where, when, and why.

Paragraph 2: Provide more details to previous information.

Paragraph 3: Include a memorable quote from someone relevant to add credibility to the story.

Paragraph 4: Add any extra relevant information here, expanding on the previous quotation.

Paragraph 5: Include an additional quote.


###

About [Neighborhood Association Name]

Brief paragraph describing your neighborhood association.