

5 Things to Know: Neighborhood Code Changes

The Bend City Council will be considering changes to **Bend Municipal Code Chapter 1.70 "Neighborhood Associations"** in May 2024. Here are five things to know about the proposed changes:

1. The City recently completed a two-year long assessment of the neighborhood program that included feedback from neighborhood leaders, community members and City Council and staff. Throughout this assessment, the City explored barriers to participation in neighborhoods and local government.
2. The assessment led to several recommendations that were heard by the **City Council Stewardship Subcommittee** in April 2023 and March 2024. Included in these recommendations were implementing code changes to bring the program into alignment with how neighborhoods currently operate, rebranding the neighborhood program to increase community awareness and membership, developing new ways for neighborhoods to engage with decision-makers and providing more administrative support to neighborhood boards.
3. Specific code changes proposed:
 - a. **Update program title and neighborhood names:** "Neighborhood Associations" will be changed to "Neighborhood Districts" to prevent further confusion with homeowners associations. Recognized neighborhoods will also be able to update their names in the code if desired.
 - b. **Add neighborhood purpose statement:** A purpose statement will be created for the neighborhoods to clarify their civic role as one currently does not exist.
 - c. **Update general meeting requirement:** The code will be changed to require a general membership meeting every 12 months instead of every 18 months to reflect the current operations of neighborhoods.
 - d. **Add annual survey requirement:** The code will be changed to include an annual survey requirement to encourage representative feedback and engagement on topics of community importance.
 - e. **Add guidelines for creating new neighborhoods and incorporating unrepresented areas:** The code will be updated to provide a more clear and objective process for creating new neighborhoods and changing existing neighborhood boundaries to make it easier for neighborhoods to adapt as Bend grows.
4. In March 2024 City staff presented to the **City Council Stewardship Subcommittee** with concepts and were provided further direction for drafting code language which will be voted on



in May. You can view the proposed language in the Council Agenda for May 15 when it is posted.

5. For questions about the assessment and recommendations, or the upcoming code changes, please reach out to Community Relations Manager **Makayla Oliver**. Learn more about the neighborhood program at bendoregon.gov/neighborhoods.



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Makayla Oliver at moliver@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-8571. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.