

Neighborhood Associations

Objective: To form 5 Neighborhood Associations in Vlore with a core constituency of 5-10 people which focus on the unique issues, problems and strengths of their neighborhood.

What is a Neighborhood Association

1. What is a neighborhood association (NA)?
An NA is a group of neighbors who get together, share their ideas, thoughts, feelings and work cooperatively to make their neighborhood a better place to live. The U.S. contains more than 250,000 private neighborhood associations.
2. Why form a NA?
A neighborhood association gives your neighborhood a voice and an advocate to become recognized in your city and community.
3. What are the benefits of a NA?
Neighborhood associations greatly improve the two-way communication between the city and its residents.
 - i. Your neighborhood will have a clear, organized way to speak to city government with a guarantee you will be heard.
 - ii. You will have a tool for relating directly to both your elected city council and city service areas.

How to Form a Neighborhood Association

1. Step 1: The Core

Form and identify a **small group of committed neighbors** who share your aspiration to form a neighborhood association, the core. Members of the core should share a **common vision regarding important issues affecting the neighborhood**. The core should have ten or less people. If the core group gets too large, it will become unmanageable and result in low productivity. The core should include people whose views are respected by other members of the community:

- Homeowners
- Business owners
- Apartment residents, managers, owners
- Church leaders
- School teachers or administrators
- Furgon Drivers
- Students

- Restaurant and Hotel Owners

2. Step 2: First Meeting

Set a meeting time and place and create a **well-planned agenda** for the first meeting. During the meeting people should:

- Establish **how frequently** members would like to meet.
 - Determine a convenient time and location for meetings.
- Boundaries of the neighborhood.
- Develop a complete list of neighborhood residents.
- Discuss each person's ideas concerning the problems and needs of the neighborhood.
- Discuss goals, projects and concerns.
- Discuss **strategies to achieve common goals**.
- Identify current and potential leaders.
- Determine special skills, talents and willingness to participate.

3. Step 3: Clarify and Distill

Evaluate and narrow down ideas concerning the **problems and needs of the neighborhood**. Outline very specific goals, projects and concerns.

4. Step 4: Leadership

Clarify the current and potential leaders in the core group. Outline their responsibilities and tasks. Make a timeline.

5. Step 5: Outreach

- Develop a complete list of neighborhood residents.
- Contact prospect committee members to form association.
- Decide how to communicate with your neighborhood association:
 - Phone, email, postcards, flyers, newsletters or a website.
- Establish a way of regular and consistent form of communication to your association members. T

The core group should meet several times before it will be ready to hold meeting with the entire neighborhood. Once the entire neighborhood is involved the core group should continue meeting as an advisory board for the newly formed neighborhood association.

Possible Issues for Neighborhood Associations to Tackle:

1. Land use issues (location of a new school, shopping center, library, highway, etc.)
2. Neighborhood improvements (additional street signs or lights, repair of a sidewalk, planting trees).

3. Urban design issues (historic preservation district; developing of architectural themes).
4. Dealing with crime and other disturbances
 - Roads
 - Trees
 - Sewers
 - Electrification of roads
 - Urbanization of Airport Area
 - 24 hours access to safe drinking water
 - Garbage Collection
 - Parks for children/ Playgrounds
 - Dumpsters
 - Bicycles Paths
 - Sidewalk
 - Set location/stops/stations for buses and taxis
 - Ambulance
 - Curb Cuts
 - More garbage cans on the beach
 - No driving on the beach
 - Trash pick-up on the beach
 - Jet Ski Safety (Ensuring specific area for jet ski and speed limits where people swim)
 - Umbrella Spike Safety for Children
 - Staffing the tourist/ information booths
 - Playground for children at beach
 - Showers are beach for the public
 - Reroute sewage from beach
 - Trees and grass on side of roads
 - Increased dumpsters for pilaties
 - Recycling program- implementation of long term plan for recycling