

AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL, INC.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the corporation is AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOODS COUNCIL, INC., a Texas Non-Profit Corporation. "ANC" shall mean Austin Neighborhoods Council, Inc.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

- A. To act as a coordinating body for the efforts of Austin area neighborhood groups, which shall remain as Autonomous groups;
- B. To encourage and assist in the formation of new neighborhood groups;
- C. To act as a clearinghouse for information and to give guidance in all matters of concern and well being to individual neighborhoods and/or the City of Austin;
- D. To research those plans, resolutions, ordinances, and legislation which affect neighborhoods in the Austin area and to make specific recommendations.
- E. To make a positive contribution to Austin through the betterment of our neighborhoods and the promotion of civic awareness;
- F. To provide to its members information, education and awareness through forums, seminars, etc., on those subjects relating to neighborhood concerns;
- G. To encourage and endorse individuals who are responsive to the needs of the neighborhoods; and
- H. In general, to transact any and all lawful business for which corporations may be incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, provided such transactions shall be in conformance with and in furtherance of the above mentioned purposes.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership Defined - Regular Memberships have voting rights at general membership meetings. Associate and Honorary Memberships carry speaking rights, but not voting rights. Coalitions comprised of more than one neighborhood group or association and which form a larger umbrella organization are not eligible for Regular Membership. Similarly, neighborhood "contact teams" or "planning teams" are not eligible for Regular membership. Neighborhood Coalitions, neighborhood contact teams, planning teams and/or "umbrella organizations" may apply for Associate Membership.
- B. Membership Criteria - Membership shall be granted to all neighborhood groups in the Austin area which meet the following criteria: "Neighborhood Group" shall mean a Neighborhood Association or a Homeowners Association or a Civic Association duly formed with stated boundaries to represent the

community of residents who live within those boundaries with bylaws requiring residency or property ownership within its stated boundaries.

C. If a neighborhood group fails to meet the criteria for membership, or its activities are contrary to the corporations core values, or any other basis contrary to the interests of ANC or its members, membership applications may be declined at the sole discretion of the ANC Executive Committee by a majority vote,

1. Regular Membership

- a. A defined boundary;
- b. A minimum of 20 members or 10% of the households in the defined boundary;
- c. More than one volunteer officer or leader elected by a democratic process;
- d. Shall have made meaningful attempts to notify neighborhood residents upon formation of the group;
- e. Pays annual dues. Regular membership dues shall be determined by the regular membership upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee. Dues are assessed on a calendar year basis and are payable on or before the January regular meeting or at the time of first joining. Dues are not prorated for a partial year.
- f. Submission of names, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers of the President and ANC Representative from the neighborhood organization. These individuals will be the voting delegates for the member neighborhood organization and shall be entitled to act in all respects on behalf of the regular membership group.
- g. Neighborhood organizations meeting the above criteria, but which are unable to pay membership dues, may request a reduction in dues or a waiver by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may grant exemption or reduction of dues by a 2/3 vote.

2. Associate Membership

- a. A defined boundary;
- b. More than one volunteer officer or leader elected by a democratic process;
- c. Shall have made meaningful attempts to notify neighborhood residents upon formation of the group;
- d. Submission of names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of the officers or other principals of the organization applying for Associate membership and a designation of the ANC spokesperson for the organization;
- e. Pays annual dues in an amount prescribed by the Executive Committee. Neighborhoods meeting the above criteria, but which are unable to pay membership dues, may request a reduction in

dues or a waiver by the Executive Committee. Exemption or reduction of dues may be granted by the Executive Committee by a 2/3 vote.

3. Honorary Membership

May be conferred upon individuals or organizations who have performed exceptional service for neighborhoods in the Austin area and who are not already a member of the Austin Neighborhoods Council. A 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee is needed to confer honorary membership.

D. Applications

1. Applications for membership shall be made in writing and shall contain the necessary information regarding fulfillment of the respective membership criteria as cited in Article III, Section B. Applications shall be submitted to the President or an officer designated by the President.

2. Subject to the provisions in Article III, ~~the approval of a membership application is automatic if all information required by the application is provided;~~ any disputes ~~with regard to~~ regarding eligibility of an applicant will be addressed by the Executive Committee either upon a signed written request by the applicant or upon initiation by the Executive Committee. The applicant shall be notified in writing of any disputes regarding eligibility prior to any determination by the Executive Committee and also notified in writing of the determination by the Executive Committee as to eligibility and membership status. **Any determination made by the Executive Committee regarding eligibility and/or membership status may be appealed to the General Membership with a 2/3 vote for approval.** In the event the ~~Executive Committee~~ **General Membership** does not approve a group's application for membership, the principals may not reapply under the same name or any other name until the next membership year.

E. Voting

1. The delegates of a Regular Membership group shall be the ANC Representative and the President of the neighborhood organization. The ANC membership of the group must be in good standing in order for a delegate to vote on behalf of his/her neighborhood organization.

2. Only one delegate per Regular Membership group in good standing shall have voting rights at any membership meeting.

3. In case of temporary unavailability of named delegates, another member of that group may represent that group upon written proxy to the ANC President or officer responsible for membership. Such proxy must be submitted by the President of the neighborhood organization in advance of any ANC meeting where votes will be cast and must be acknowledged as received by the ANC President or officer responsible for membership before a proxy vote will be permitted. Unless the written proxy specifies otherwise, the proxy shall be valid for only one ANC meeting. Notifications may be by electronic communication.

4. A Regular Membership group in good standing is a group that has satisfied membership and membership application criteria 45 days prior to the meeting.

5. Members of the Executive Committee shall have voting rights at any meeting.

6. An ANC officer may not also act as his/her group's delegate. However, in the case of a co-officer, one co-officer may vote for his/her member group (if a "delegate" of that group), but the other must