

# Essential Elements of the Alliance of Neighborhoods

*Excerpts (slightly condensed) from the Constitution and Bylaws of the Alliance of Neighborhoods  
as approved by the Interim Executive Board, August, 2008*

The Alliance's ultimate aim is to make our community a better place to live, with residents of the neighborhoods of the City of Charlottesville and the County of Albemarle committing ourselves through the Alliance and our member Neighborhood Associations to concerted action for the benefit of all. The purpose of the Alliance shall be to aid the development of neighborhoods, and in particular Neighborhood Associations, individually and jointly as members of the whole community, in directions and by means appropriate to the aim and commitment, specifically by: (1) increasing the awareness of each member Association's concerns, problems, and achievements; (2) supporting a member Association in its action where and when deemed beneficial by a majority vote of the member Associations; (3) assisting residents living in parts of the City and County without Neighborhood Associations to organize and become active members of the Alliance; and (4) encouraging member Associations and others to adopt equitable policies and fair and open procedures.

In all its activities, the Alliance shall be strictly nonpartisan, nonprofit, and nonsectarian. It shall not support candidates for public office. However, it reserves the right, with the approval of majority of the member Associations, to advocate or oppose any legislation, policy, procedure, or position as necessary to accomplish its purpose.

**Members:** The members of the Alliance shall be the constituent Neighborhood Associations. Any association into which the residents of a given geographic area have formed themselves originally for the purpose of maintaining and improving the overall quality of life in that area shall be deemed a Neighborhood Association, provided membership in it is open without limitation or exception, other than the payment of reasonable dues, to all persons residing in the area. (Only households and individual persons shall be considered residents.) Each Association whose dues are current shall have one vote, to be cast by the representative or alternate representative appointed by that Association.

Additionally, individual members who commit to support the Alliance's purposes, policies, and structure can be admitted to the Alliance and can serve as at-large members of the Executive Board. Such members may live in neighborhoods with or without Neighborhood Associations. These individual members will not have voting rights, except for any individual members who serve on the Executive Board, who may vote on matters coming before the Board.

**Officers:** The Officers of the Alliance – President, Vice President, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer – shall be elected, each for a one-year term, from the duly appointed representatives of the member Associations. They shall begin serving immediately following election, and each shall be limited to two consecutive terms of office.

**Assembly:** The duly appointed representatives of the member Associations (with one vote per Association) and individual members (with no vote) shall constitute the Assembly of the Alliance. The Assembly shall supervise the affairs of the Alliance.

The Assembly shall have a minimum of four meetings per year, with regular meetings held on the third Tuesday of March, June, September, and December unless otherwise requested by member Associations or by a majority of the Assembly. The regular meeting in March shall be the Annual Meeting, for the purpose of electing officers and Executive Board members, receiving reports, and other business. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the President and shall be called upon request of any member Association, with the purpose stated in the call. Except in cases of emergency, at least ten days notice shall be given. Upon the decision of the Executive Board or the Assembly, or upon request of any member Association, all members of the constituent Associations shall be invited to a General Assembly.

A majority of the member Associations (not just those in attendance) entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at Assembly meetings and General Assemblies.

**Executive Board:** The five officers and two other persons elected as at-large members for one-year terms at the Assembly's Annual Meeting shall constitute the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall conduct the business of the Alliance, fix the hour and place of the meetings, and make recommendations to the Assembly and to the member Associations. The regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held on the third Tuesday in January, February, April, May, July, August, October, and November, unless otherwise requested by a majority of the Committee. The meetings shall be open to all representatives and members of member Associations. Special Board meetings may be called by the President and shall be called upon request of any two member Associations, with the purpose stated in the call. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum. All actions and records of the Executive Board and Alliance committees shall be open to review by the Assembly, the member Associations, and their members. In all its actions, the Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the Assembly, and none of the acts of the Board shall conflict with action taken by the Assembly.

**Nominations & Elections:** At its regular meeting in December, the Assembly shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three member Association representatives. This committee shall nominate one candidate for each office to be filled at the Annual Meeting and shall report at the regular Executive Board meeting. Additional nominations from the floor shall be in order at the Annual Meeting. Each candidate shall have given his/her consent prior to nomination. The officers and Executive Board members shall be elected by secret ballot by a majority vote of the member Associations.

**Standing Committees:** There shall be two standing committees: Management Audit and History Committee and Planning and Research Committee. [See Addendum below.]

**Representation & Statements:** Only members of the Executive Board or persons designated by the Assembly shall represent the Alliance. No person shall make any public statement or commitment in support of, or opposition to, any position or policy in the name of the Alliance without: (1) the unanimous approval of Association representatives acting with the approval of their respective Associations; or (2) naming those member Associations who constitute a majority of member Associations and have given their approval and naming those who have refused, abstained, or were unreachable for a decision.

**Dues:** The annual dues shall be \$10.00 payable on becoming a member and thereafter annually in March. The Board may, on a finding of special circumstance in a particular case, vote to waive payment of dues for a year for a member. The Assembly may suspend collection of dues if the Treasurer deems the financial reserves are adequate.