

Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association
Voter Information
Annual Meeting: May 16, 2019
FAQ: Bylaws

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY ARE THE BYLAWS BEING UPDATED?

- To correct outdated information and comply with Oregon law.
- To improve the organization of the sections to reduce ambiguities.
- To improve transparency and clarity for the reader.
- To reduce the need for bylaws revisions by identifying sections better addressed with operational guidelines.
- In order to incorporate ONI bylaws template as a baseline to guide the process.

HOW WILL MEMBERS VOTE IN THE PROPOSED BYLAWS?

Member will be able to cast their vote for or against the proposed Bylaws on the same paper ballot they'll receive for Board member positions.

WHAT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED BYLAWS?

The revised Bylaws require a 2/3 vote of the membership in attendance – that is, members who show up in person with valid ID who request a ballot. Members are required to show up in person to receive a ballot, but they are not required to attend the Annual Membership Meeting.

WHY ARE THE BYLAWS BEING ADOPTED BY PAPER BALLOT RATHER THAN DURING THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING?

Because a paper ballot allows for maximum participation. We anticipate that the number of people who stay for the Membership meeting is much smaller than the number of people who will come only to cast their ballots.

WHY DOES THE PAPER BALLOT ALLOW FOR GREATER PARTICIPATION?

We value a process that maximized member participation and documentation of the final vote. In the last two years, an unprecedented number of our neighbors turned out to cast their vote in our annual Board election.

We anticipate a high turnout against this year – turnout beyond the capacity of the association to call for, verify, and document a hand count.

We do not have the capacity to tally in-person voice-voting when participation may number in the hundreds. In order to capture the highest level of member participation with accuracy, we have chosen to adopt the proposed bylaws by secure written ballot.

HOW CAN MEMBERS PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS?

Members will not be able to propose amendments to the Bylaws at our Annual meeting. We will not know the outcome of the vote to adopt the Bylaws for several days. We cannot amend a document that has not been adopted. Additionally, attendance at the Membership meeting will not reflect the total number of voters who cast a paper ballot. A majority of voters will only stay long enough to fill out their ballot. Amendments proposed during the meeting will not engage those voters.

WILL MEMBERS BE ABLE TO AMEND THE BYLAWS ONCE THEY HAVE BEEN ADOPTED?

Yes, of course. The Bylaws, both current and proposed, include provisions for amendment by the board and/or by the membership.

DO ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER COMPEL THE ENA TO ALLOW AMENDMENTS FROM THE FLOOR DURING THE ANNUAL MEETING?

Robert's Rules do not supersede the Association Bylaws, nor any special rules the Neighborhood Association may adopt (2007 Bylaws, Section 3). In April 2019, the board voted on a motion to place the Revised Bylaws on the paper ballot in order to maximize member participation and voter turnout. This motion supersedes any contradictory rules laid out in Robert's Rules of Order.

DOES OREGON LAW ALLOW FOR THE ENA TO VOTE USING A PAPER BALLOT?

Voting by paper ballot is entirely consistent with ORS rules.
See: ORS 65.001(2)(b)

HAS THE BYLAWS REVISION PROCESS HAD SUFFICIENT MEMBER ENGAGEMENT LEADING UP TO THE VOTE TO ADOPT?

The ENA Bylaws Committee and Communications Committee have taken great care to seek out and encourage comments, participation, and feedback over the course of the 2018 revision process

The revision timeline was drafted to provide membership ample time to review, consider, and participate in the proposed updates to the association bylaws.

The ENA worked diligently to increase member participation during the entire Bylaws revision process.

The intention to revise the bylaws was discussed frequently at monthly ENA board meetings through the latter half of 2017 leading up to the formation of a Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws were included in the President's letter in the 2017 fall newsletter. The Bylaws were on our meeting agendas, and updates were shared at every meeting in 2018. We sent out emails, posted on social media, set up a dedicated email address and a dedicated page on our website, published newsletter articles, and hosted an open house forum. We have used every communication tool at our disposal to reach out to our membership in the process of drafting a completed Bylaws document. Very minor edits were proposed in 2019 before the Bylaws were again placed on the ballot for consideration by the membership. All changes are available for viewing.

WHERE CAN I VIEW THESE PROPOSED BYLAWS?

Our website has hosted a dedicated page for the revised Bylaws. Here, you will be able to view the current 2007 Bylaws, the proposed Bylaws, as well as a document that outlines the changes made, and another document that explains the reasons for proposed changes. You can find all Bylaws the documents here: <http://www.eastmorelandpdx.org/bylaws2018/>

I DON'T FEEL THE ENA HAS DONE ENOUGH OUTREACH TO PROPOSE AND UP OR DOWN VOTE ON THE BYLAWS..

Our ENA committees, driven entirely by volunteer efforts, have put many, many hours into the Bylaws revision, and then more hours into soliciting neighbor engagement and feedback. We have done due diligence on how to maximize participation and how to capture the vote. If you feel that these efforts have in any way suppressed your right to engage with the process, you are entirely within your rights to file a grievance against the board to seek redress.:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/article/97816>

IF THE REVISED BYLAWS AREN'T ADOPTED, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Neighborhood Association will continue to be governed by the 2007 Bylaws. The updated 2018 Bylaws may be proposed for adoption at a later date.

IF THE BYLAWS ARE ADOPTED, WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Upon completion of the vote count, the new Bylaws will become effective immediately. We anticipate the vote will be completed within one week of the election.

The Eastmoreland Neighborhood Association values your participation. We are committed to creating a transparent and inclusive process. If you still have questions or concerns after reading this document, please contact us at: communications@eastmorelandpdx.org