

We are stronger together!

How to work on unifying the neighborhoods in your district

Are you feeling lonely?

Neighborhood leadership is not for the meek.

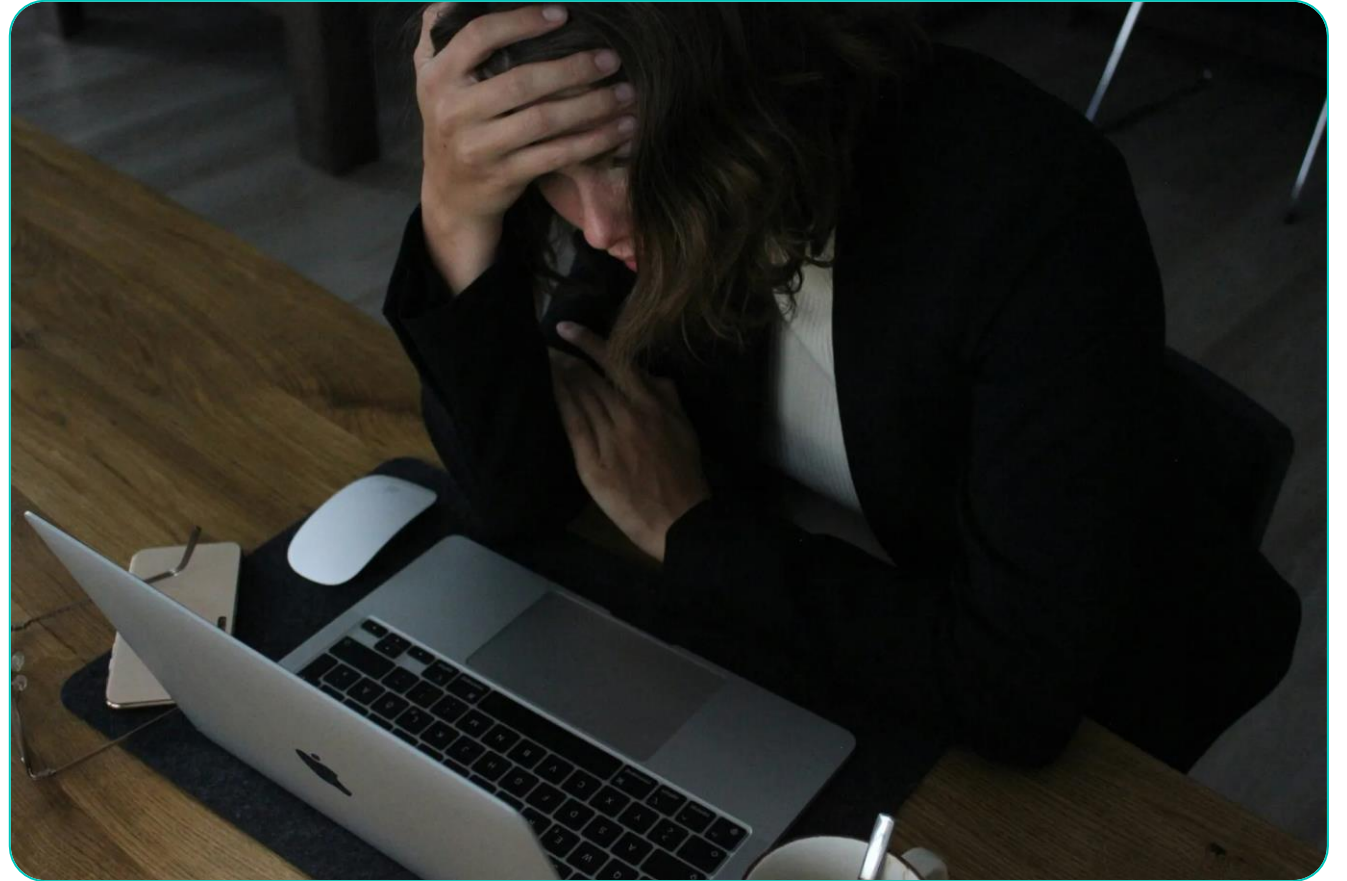
Everyone wants something from you – the city, your neighbors, the internet trolls.

Deadlines, agendas, meetings, conflicts, organizing...

So many questions and decisions.

It's a lot, even for the strongest community organizer.

But you don't have to do it alone.



The Brief History of The ONES –

Created in Hillyard as a succession of the Greater Hillyard Planning Alliance and other economic development groups, The ONES has been around since the mid-2000s.

Early on, the group focused on work in Northeast Spokane but evolved to cover District One.

It meets once a month at the Northeast Community Center.

Each District One Neighborhood Council sends a representative to the meetings – usually the chair, but it can be someone else.

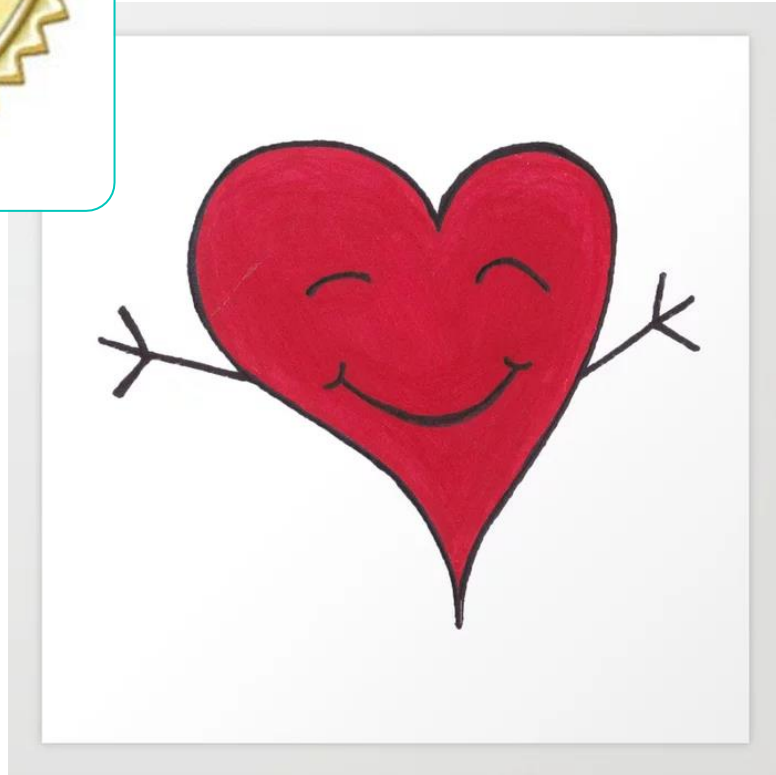


**Organizations
of Northeast
Spokane**

But why?

- Neighborhoods face many of the same issues, and joining up to speak together is more impactful than going at it alone.
- Contact with other NC leaders allows for a free exchange of information and ideas.
- New leaders can draw on the experience of those who've been around.
- Elected officials are more likely to join meetings where everyone is represented.
- We can help each other out.





The ONES is a non-profit organization

Neighborhood Councils often need help with whether to become non-profit organizations.

The ONES maintains a 501C3 registration which means it can be the fiscal sponsor for another organization in District One.

This means access to grant funding and the ability to receive tax-deductible donations.

A project has to be approved by The ONES before it can use the 501C3 registration.

This year, we sponsored the Hillyard Parade

The parade found itself without a valid 501C3 registration, so it couldn't receive sponsorships or donations.

We signed a working agreement and a contract with the parade so it could continue operating as usual.

Most of the work was done by organizers (as usual) but any money went through our account, overseen by our treasurer and a rep from Hillyard.

We charge a 5 percent service fee for doing the bookkeeping and getting our treasurer a cup of coffee.



We also lent our 501C3 registration to a community member who was applying for a grant.

And we are the fiscal sponsor of this neighborhood summit.

Hopefully, we can support more District One neighborhood events in the future.



It's not **JUST** about the money.

Together, we all went to a city council meeting and spoke up about our lack of District One representation on boards and commissions.

We wrote the statement together and went to a city council meeting.

One person read the statement; the rest were there for moral support.

It made a difference to all of us because we felt seen and heard – and we weren't alone at the meeting.



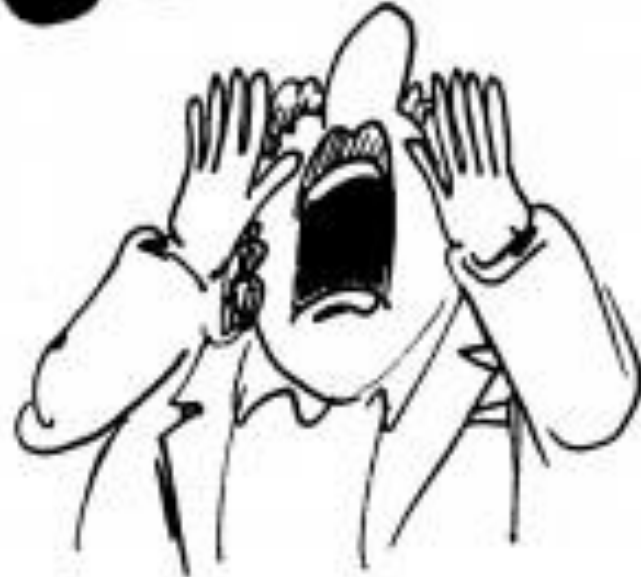
It's more and more difficult to get volunteers

By joining together you can help the NCs that are struggling from lack of attendance.

In District One, some neighborhood councils now hold joint meetings instead of trying to go at it alone.

It's more and more difficult to get people to go to meetings – joining forces with an adjacent neighborhood council for a couple of meetings is a great idea.

Volunteers!





Change can be difficult

And it can also be invigorating.

Meet new people.

Learn new things.

Just because "we've always done it that other way" doesn't mean that's the only right way.

We are all in it for the same reason: to make our neighborhoods better and stronger – we can be stronger together.

Pia –

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Outgoing Riverside Chair

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