

Bylaws of
Green Neighbors of DC

Article I - Organization

The name of the unincorporated association is Green Neighbors of DC (“Green Neighbors” in this document) and is organized under the laws of the District of Columbia.

Article II - Purpose

Our mission statement is: Green Neighbors is an all-volunteer group initially in the Petworth, Park View and Brightwood neighborhoods in Washington, DC. Our mission is to lower our neighborhoods’ emissions of carbon and other pollutants that contribute to global warming and to make renewable energy and other sustainable resources more accessible to everyone in our community. We see ourselves as part of a larger District-wide, regional, national and international movement to preserve our climate and planet for future generations.

Green Neighbors will not discriminate against anyone based on race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, social or economic status, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, religious belief or affiliation, political identity, marital status, or any other identifying characteristic. Green Neighbors strives to create a space in which people of any identity feel comfortable working on our common goals.

Article III -Membership

A member of the group is defined as:

- A person who supports the group’s mission statement; and
- A person who agrees to abide by the group’s bylaws; and
- A person who has either come to at least one meeting, opts into group communications, and/or has volunteered with us.

Members need not reside in the core neighborhoods (as defined in our mission statement) to be involved.

A quorum of the group (defined below) can decide to add or delete neighborhoods to or from our mission statement.

Article IV - Officers

Green Neighbors is a non-hierarchical group. All members are of equal status.

Article V - Administrative Requirements and Policies

Decision-Making

Green Neighbors makes decisions by consensus when possible, and will use voting when necessary. When voting, matters will be decided by a simple majority.

Major decisions require a quorum as defined below. Minor decisions can be made by whoever is at the meeting. Major decisions include:

- Amending our mission statement or bylaws, including adding or deleting neighborhoods.
- Changing the name of the group.
- Authorizing expenditures of over \$50.
- Committing the group to anything that requires a significant effort on the part of the group, for instance, volunteer time or expense.
- Endorsing an event or activity of another organization.
- Changing our status from an unincorporated association to a different status.
- Changing our bank account to a different bank.

Quorum required for making decisions is 5 people, at least 4 of whom are experienced members. This quorum can be achieved through electronic voting.

Standards of Conduct

Members must show respect to each other in meetings, events and on the group's listservs. If any group member behaves in a way that one more group members considers disrespectful, a quorum of the group can ask the person to correct [or "discontinue" or "cease"] the behavior or leave the meeting and/or listserv, or to leave the group altogether.

Fiscal Policy

Green Neighbors is an unincorporated association. As a consequence of choosing this status, persons who donate funds to our group cannot claim a tax deduction for their donation. A quorum of the group can decide to apply for fiscal sponsorship or tax-exempt non-profit status at any time in the future.

Green Neighbors has its own group bank account. One member is the responsible party, as defined when registering for the Employee Identification Number (EIN) from the US Internal Revenue Service. The responsible party shall not be liable for his or her acts or failure to act on any part of any other member of Green Neighbors; nor shall the responsible party be liable for his or her acts or failure to act under these Bylaws, excepting only acts or omissions to act arising out of his or her willful misfeasance.

Green Neighbors Funds greater than \$50 may not be disbursed without obtaining the permission of a quorum of the group. If a decision on an expenditure of greater than \$50 needs to be made on an urgent basis between meetings, the person requesting the funds needs to notify the group's internal listserv and give at least 48 hours for people to respond. If everyone who responds approves of the expense, the check signers are authorized to write the check. If there are any concerns or objections that cannot be resolved on the listserv, the decision will be put off until the next meeting.

A group member can spend up to \$20 in group funds with prior approval for the assigned task. Group members must keep a receipt for any such expense. Reimbursement from the group will occur promptly. Financial statements will be available online and will be reviewed quarterly.

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1.

Certification

These bylaws were approved by a majority vote on June 16, 2014.