

Date: March 16, 2004

To: Neighborhood Council Leaders

From: Greg Nelson, General Manager, Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment

Subject: COOL IDEAS NEEDED. NEW BONC MEETING DATES.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL STATUS REPORT ON THE WEBSITE.

COOL IDEAS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SOUGHT

As the beginning of the City Charter reads, a primary mission of the Neighborhood Council system is to promote public participation in government. We're collecting the best ideas that Neighborhood Councils are using or should be using (in your opinion) to accomplish this. Then we'll share the ideas with everyone.

For example: Junk Robert's Rules of Order. Procedures that work for a corporation conducting a business meeting may not attract people to a Neighborhood Council meeting. Do like the City Council has done ... use Robert's as the foundation for building your own rules for those moments when you're conducting business. But feel free to use the rest of the time to engage the stakeholders and the board members in meaningful and participatory discussions of community matters. Tell the stakeholders in advance that after the board has discussed certain items, but before they make a decision, they ask the stakeholders to cast an advisory vote.

NEW DATES FOR BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The commission will now hold its regular meetings on the first and third Tuesday nights of each week. Don't expect them to meet on Election Day, May 17.

HELPFUL HINTS – NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL STATUS REPORT

It used to be called the Neighborhood Council Certification Report. That was back when the big issue was certification. Now we've changed its name because it contain much more information about which Neighborhood Councils have had their first election, the number of voters at each election, date of next election, etc.

You can find it on our website. Click on "Neighborhood Councils" on the left, and then on [Certification Status Report or Neighborhood Council Status Report](#). We're in the process of changing the name on the website.

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