

Comprehensive Policy Plan  
"Living Spaces"

Policy Letter 217: Neighborhood Participation

**BACKGROUND:**

Throughout the community, residents from time to time experience conflicts with neighbors or public and private entities over land use and traffic development issues. One way for neighbors to voice their concerns in a collective effort is through Neighborhood Associations. Currently, the activity level of any neighborhood association in Fargo is minimal, and certain areas or neighborhoods in Fargo may possibly need assistance in bringing neighbors together over specific issues.

Keeping a "small town feeling" in Fargo has been identified through past public meetings as a goal or focus in directing land use development. The community overall has several positive examples of how neighborhood associations in Fargo have brought neighbors together to work through concerns as the neighborhood was impacted. It appears that the key to any neighborhood association is the need for a local building for meeting (many times this has been an elementary school) and a leader to guide neighbors through the meetings and other activities.

Whether the neighborhood is defined by elementary school enrollment areas or by the City of Fargo Area Plans, it is critical the neighbors are communicating with each other. Fargo can maintain the "small town feeling" with increased assistance and involvement from citizens in the process of land use development.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**The City of Fargo should encourage citizen participation in the land use development and redevelopment process within their neighborhoods. More interaction is needed with citizens acting individually or as groups to identify the type of assistance the City should provide to neighborhoods.**

**CONCLUSION:**

Not all neighborhoods may share the same interest in the activities a neighborhood association can create. The downtown neighborhood was identified as an area with a need to address concerns between the local residential community and the business community. As Fargo continues to develop, the complex issues of land use should be addressed with a clear voice of citizen input.