

All neighborhood associations should develop an annual work plan. Developing a work plan allows the opportunity to review past successes, develop a shared set of values as a group, plan activities for the upcoming year and discuss ways to improve any challenges that the group may be facing.

Meeting goals, planning community events and recruiting new volunteers will be easier if you take some time to outline your expectations and objectives in advance. A little planning can go a long way to help your organization stay strong and successful!

Possible questions to generate discussion at the board retreat:

- Why did you become a board member?
- What do you like about the neighborhood association that keeps you involved?
- What is the neighborhood association's role or obligation to the neighborhood?
- What do you see as your neighborhood association's biggest successes?
- What have been our biggest challenges?
- What changes could be made to improve the neighborhood association and overcome challenges?
- What are the core projects and activities we'd like to pursue this year?

When individual projects are suggested, ask the following questions:

- What is the purpose of doing this project?
- Is there a need for it in the community?
- What are the tasks involved?
- How much time will be needed?
- How much money will be needed? Does the neighborhood association have the necessary funds? If not, how will the necessary funds be raised?
- Are enough volunteers available to do the work?
- Have other neighborhood associations tried a similar activity? If so, contact them for help.