

SOUTH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

POSITION-OF-SUPPORT POLICY

Background:

While the South Park Neighborhood Association does not endorse political candidates, there will be times when the SPNA, its Board, or a Committee of the Board will be asked to support an activity or project that affects the South Park community. This policy provides guidance for what responses might be appropriate in what instances, and how appropriate levels of support might be expressed – with the intention of considering differing viewpoints to arrive at a decision in a timely manner.

The Mission of the SPNA is to improve and enhance the South Park community by connecting neighbor to neighbor

While there may be many requests for support from the Neighborhood Association, it is likely that these will fall into two main types: those deriving from activities within the borders of South Park, and those arising from activities that affect the South Park community as well as a broader portion of adjacent neighborhoods. The response for each type of support requested is outlined below.

Policy:

Alternate One: Letter of Support

For those activities that meet ALL of the following criteria:

- are related to the mission of the SPNA
- occur substantially within the boundaries of South Park
- provide a clear benefit to the community
- have limited or no opposition
- provide documentation of need for the recommendation, and how the proposal meets the above-mentioned criteria
- are presented at a scheduled SPNA meeting by the requesting party in the form of a presentation with Q & A followed by a majority vote of support from the SPNA membership,

The South Park Neighborhood Association Board may produce the Letter of Support.

In the case of a split vote, then Alternate Two is suggested to the recommending party.

Alternate Two: Statement of Results

For those activities that have received a split vote at a SPNA membership meeting, and meet ANY of the following criteria:

- have generated multiple and/or opposing points of view
- are not closely related to the Mission of the SPNA
- are partially or completely outside the boundaries of South Park
- or are political or semi-legislative (e.g., zoning) in nature,

A Statement of Results will be written by the SPNA meeting chairperson, to include the final count of each opinion. The Statement will clearly state that the letter not be considered an endorsement of the proposal by the SPNA membership or the SPNA Board, it is simply stating the results of the vote.

If the requesting party desires to obtain more support, he/she may provide an additional informational meeting, using the following recommended procedure:

The requesting party will host an in-depth meeting to provide the South Park community with information about the proposal. The requesting party will be responsible for scheduling the meeting, ensuring that at least one SPNA board member will be available to attend, and advertising the meeting preceding the event. During the meeting, the requesting party will present the proposal followed by a Q & A session. The SPNA board member in attendance will conduct a poll of those community residents present, and the results of the poll will be tabulated for the totals of “yeas”, “nays”, and abstentions.

A Statement of Results will be written by the board member, to include the final count of each opinion. The Statement will clearly state that the letter not be considered an endorsement of the proposal by the SPNA membership or the SPNA Board, it is simply a vote of individuals within the South Park community.

Alternate Three: Letter of Acknowledgement

Where an entity is:

- seeking acknowledgement of community outreach efforts as part of a grant proposal application process,
- and no project support is requested or implied

The requesting party may request a Letter of Acknowledgement from the SPNA Board. Upon an affirmative vote by the Board, the requesting party may submit the letter.