

NORTH PLAINFIELD CITIZENS FOR COMMUNITY RIGHTS

BY-LAWS

Article I - ORGANIZATION NAME

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be North Plainfield Citizens for Community Rights, hereinafter to be referred to as NPCCR.

Article II - PURPOSE

Section 1: The NPCCR organization, founded in Spring, 2007, by a non-partisan group of North Plainfield residents' intent on solving local problems through open public discussion, educating and giving support, and taking action so as to improve the quality of life for all North Plainfield residents.

Article III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: **General Membership** shall be open to the general public and term of membership shall be for one calendar year. Annual dues are assessed at \$10 and must be paid by January 31 so as to bestow and/or maintain voting rights for that calendar year.

Section 2. **Founder Membership** is defined as those individuals who participated in the formation of NPCCR from its inception and are as follows: Frank d'Amore, Robert Gatto, Gary Lewis, Antoinette Rinehart, Thalia Saloukas, Bart Thomas, Katherine Watt. Founders hold a lifetime and irrevocable membership. Founders' participation in all Founders/Core group activities is permanent.

Section 3. **Core Membership** shall consist of dues paying members in good standing as defined in Art.III Sec. 1 and must be residents of North Plainfield. Core members may attend monthly Agenda Meetings and may actively participate in the decision making process of day to day activities. The number of Core members may be expanded or contracted at the discretion of the Founders and Cores by a simple majority vote.

Section 4. **Voting Membership** shall be defined as those members of NPCCR in good standing. All voting to be defined in Article IV.

Article IV - VOTING RIGHTS

- Section 1. **General Voting Rights.** A member in good standing (dues paying member) who is a resident of North Plainfield shall be able to cast a vote pertaining to all general NPCCR business. A simple majority is necessary to carry any motion pertaining to general NPCCR business. A quorum of five is necessary to conduct any general NPCCR business meeting. Votes will be indicated by a show of hands and validated as necessary.
- Section 2. **Core Voting Rights.** Core Members (NPCCR members in good standing who reside in North Plainfield), in addition to General membership voting rights, are also permitted to vote in Founder/Core Agenda Sessions and/or Special meetings (not considered general NPCCR business). Votes will be indicated by a show of hands and validated as necessary.
- Section 3. **Founders Voting Rights.** In addition to the same Core voting rights, a Founder's voting rights are irrevocable and in perpetuity regardless of individual residency as long as said individual is a member in good standing of NPCCR and shall be allowed to cast a voice vote by telephone in lieu of attendance if necessary.
- Section 4. **Special Voting Rights.** Special voting rights are accorded the NPCCR Founders/Core Groups with respect to amending By-Laws (not to be considered general NPCCR business. Said amendments must be carried by a super majority (two-thirds) of only the Founders/Cores in attendance at the time of consideration. All special votes shall be by written ballot.

Article V - OFFICERS

- Section 1: The elected officers shall be two Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Section 2. The positions of **Co-Chair** shall be filled by two persons, one of whom shall be a **Founder** in good standing. The second Co-Chair shall be elected from the **General** NPCCR membership, be in good standing, and be a resident of North Plainfield.
- Co-Chairs shall preside at all meetings and shall conduct alternate monthly Public and Agenda meetings

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Section 3. The **Secretary**

- Shall record minutes at all meetings.
- Shall handle all correspondence, promotional materials, and publicity for all meetings and programs.
- Shall collect all dues and shall issue membership cards to members in good standing.
- Receives all monies, pays them out to the Treasurer who issues him a receipt for same.

Section 4. The **Treasurer**

- Shall keep an accurate and just account of all receipts and disbursements and present a complete report at the monthly public meeting.
- Is authorized to pay bills and sign checks.
- In his/her absence the Secretary with the approval of the Co-Chairs may sign checks to cover emergencies.
- Presents a complete report at the monthly Public Meeting.
- Shall receive all monies from the Secretary, giving him/her a receipt for the same.
- Shall make payments made by request of the Co-Chairs and the consent of the voting membership.

Article VI - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 – In October of each year the Co-Chairs shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) to identify and review the credentials of potential candidates.

Section 2 – The Nominating Committee shall present its recommendations to the membership at the November general membership meeting and shall solicit additional nominations from the floor

Section 3 – In December the Chair of the Nominating Committee shall conduct an election, offering for each position the names of the Committee's recommendations and all other nominations.

Section 4 – **Election** shall be made by written ballot from the General Membership in good standing, as per Article III, Section 1.

Section 5 – **Resignations** should be made in writing to the Co-Chairs.

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Section 6. **Vacancies.** When a vacancy occurs among the officers the Founders/Core reserve the authority to fill any unexpired term of elected officer, until such time that the position is filled in accordance with the procedure for election of officers in Article V of these By-Laws by a simple majority.

Section 7. **Revocation of Office/Membership.** Any member or elected position may be revoked by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Founders/Core group in attendance at the special meeting (as per Article VII Section 4) called for this specific purpose if his/her behavior or actions is deemed to be not in keeping with the spirit and purpose of the NPCCR.

Article VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. **General Public Meetings** shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at Vermuele Senior Center unless otherwise specified.

Section 2. **Agenda Meetings** shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at the Blue Room unless otherwise specified.

Section 3. **Conflicts.** In the event of a conflict with holiday or other significant circumstances, the Co-Chairs may reschedule any meeting with adequate notification to the general public

Section 4. **Special Meetings.** A minimum of 48 hours notice and two notices (one via phone and one via email) must be given to the Founders/Core group in the event that Co-Chairs agree that a special meeting is imperative.

Section 5. **Meeting format** shall be:

- Call to order
- Pledge of allegiance
- Secretary's report and acceptance
- Treasurer's report and acceptance
- Introduction of new members
- Announcement of next meeting date and topic
- Committee reports
- Old business
- New business
- Adjournment

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Article VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. **Committees** shall be appointed by the Co-Chairs as the needs arise and shall be prioritized according to current interest and urgency.

Article IX - AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Section 1. Proposals for amendments to the By-Laws shall be submitted by Founders/Core members only and shall be considered exclusively at Founders/Core meetings.

Section 2. Any changes to the By-Laws must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) super majority vote of the Founders/Core members in good standing in attendance (Article IV, Section 4).

Section 3. All Founders/Core members must be notified as per Article VII Section 4 (Special Meetings) called for this specific purpose.

Article X - EXCEPTION

Section 1. General Membership annual dues payment will be afforded an exception to Article III Section 1 for the first year of ratification of these By-Laws. The date for payment of dues shall be extended to the date of the second general public meeting following ratification of these By-Laws.