

## **SWNI POLICY ON PUBLIC INFORMATION/INVOLVEMENT CONTRACTS**

SWNI from time to time has entered into contracts, both long-term and short-term, with City of Portland bureaus to provide those bureaus with public information/involvement services related to planning and construction projects.

Such contracts provide critically needed funding for SWNI and provide benefits to SWNI, the neighborhoods SWNI serves, and the bureaus with whom SWNI contracts. The contracts help the public and city bureaus to communicate their needs and interests to each other and to share ideas that can improve projects and reduce distrust and misunderstanding. Opportunities may arise in the future for contracts with other organizations, public or private.

Such contracts, however, always present a potential conflict of interest for SWNI. A real conflict arises if a substantive disagreement arises between one or more neighborhood associations and the organization from which SWNI is receiving money.

The SWNI Board takes the following policy position:

- 1) SWNI may continue to enter into contracts with other organizations to provide those organizations with public information/involvement services.
- 2) SWNI may enter into such contracts only when they promote and foster its mission: to empower citizen action to improve and maintain the livability of southwest neighborhoods, and only when a real conflict of interest cannot be reasonably foreseen.
- 3) The Board and the Executive Committee must be notified as soon as practicable when the possibility of a contract arises. SWNI staff shall at the same time notify the constituent neighborhood association chairs.
- 4) SWNI may not enter into a contract without prior Board approval.
- 5) After a contract is signed, SWNI staff shall keep its neighborhood associations apprised of progress on the project.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

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SWNI President

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SWNI Secretary