

CANDIDATE POSITION STATEMENT for Don Baack

This statement will be posted before and during the meeting to give your Hillsdale Neighbors a better understanding of what you will offer as a Board Member. Please be as open and honest as you can.

Elections will take place on June 6th. At the Meeting, you will also be given time to make a 1-minute introductory statement followed by a 15 minute "social period" for neighbors to come up and talk to the candidates.

The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form.

* Required

1. Why are you interested in serving on the Hillsdale Neighborhood Association (HNA) Board? *

Since I retired, I have sought to give back by serving my neighborhood and the City of Portland. I have a lot of energy, creative ideas, know how to get things done, am willing to get my hands and knees in the dirt and find satisfaction in serving the community. I am well informed about the SW Corridor and I will work to make it and the rest of the transit system serve all of Hillsdale as much as possible.

2. What strengths and perspectives would you bring to the HNA Board? *

I have developed a large number of contacts throughout the City, County, TriMet and Metro which helps to move Hillsdale projects along. I have a business background and have served in leadership capacities in a wide variety of environments. I am willing to address difficult tasks and have the persistence to see them to completion even over a period of years.

3. What neighborhood issues and topics do you feel strongly about and why? *

Infrastructure. With the changes happening in Portland we are going to grow internally in most parts of the city. We need strong voices to be sure the city leaders understand the unique geographic conditions of SW Portland and do not apply "one size fits all" solutions that are not reasonable for SW Portland. Examples: Stormwater management, our soils do not absorb much water so we need alternatives to infiltration. SWTrails was created to provide safe, comfortable walking alternatives to expensive sidewalks that will never be built.

4. In what ways do you think the HNA should serve the community? *

Foster a climate where anyone seeking to improve the community is supported in every way possible. Welcome new people and new ideas. Listen to our neighbors and provide accurate facts and exchange ideas in the community. Bring issues facing the city and the community to the board. Communicate established positions to the leaders of the local governments. Volunteer to physically join efforts to improve the community. I walk a lot and talk with many neighbors about our community and what they see needs to be done.

5. What would you like to accomplish as a Board Member? What would be your priorities? *

Gain funding to complete the Red Electric Trail across all of SW Portland to connect the Willamette River with the Fanno Creek Trail in Washington County. This will also bring more bike riding and walking customers to the Hillsdale commercial area.

Develop a good neighbor agreement for all 3 public schools in Hillsdale. Develop a new Hillsdale Plan to guide future planning and development. Engage the Hillsdale Foundation to take on larger long-range projects that are agreed to by the community.

6. Which Board committees and activities would you like to participate in? (Options include: parks, schools, land use, watershed, etc) *

Transportation and work with SWTrails to improve the walking environment of Hillsdale and SW Portland; Parks when time permits.

7. What is your prior volunteer experience? Have you previously served in a board or leadership role? How have you interacted with local government around land-use or public policy issues? *

Planning Commission City of Puyallup Wa. Finance Chair of Lutheran Community Services where I led a major effort to restore financial stability to the organization. Chair of Lukedorf a mental health service agency. Founded SWTrails and served as President 20+ years. Have been a member or leader of numerous City of Portland transportation related commissions and advisory committees. Conceived, secured funding for and managed the 4T Trail implementation including wayfinding, interpretative signage, and web site.

8. Do your business, work, relationships, or personal activities create any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest with service on the HNA board? How will you address these conflicts of interest if and when they arise? * No

Brief Summary of the life of Don Baack

Married to Gaile Baack, 53 years, 2 biological children and a large extended family of Vietnamese, Chinese many of whom have lived with us for periods up to two years. Many friends in several refugee communities of Portland.

Professional Civil Engineer, MBA (retired)

45+ year Hillsdale Resident

Small business owner focusing on forest products. Served as Chief Executive Officer in role as Bankruptcy Trustee for troubled companies, traveled extensively. Retired 1994, became more active in Hillsdale Community and SW Portland

Accomplishments in the Hillsdale Area

Worked to bring people together to accomplish mutually agreed upon goals and projects.

Founded SWTrails, laid out 4 Urban Trails that cross through Hillsdale, led actual building of numerous trail connections create walkable routes. Conceived the 4T trail, secured funding and managed implementation.

Served as President of Hillsdale NA for 7 years

Worked with HD Business Assn and Rieke PTA to keep Rieke open. My role was engaging PPS staff and all members of the Portland School Board in a long email exchange to educate them about Rieke and Hillsdale facts, the metro laws and the environmental impact of closing Rieke!

Resolved long standing neighborhood conflict about the overlap of boundaries with SWHRL.

Led citizen effort to get the Red Electric Plan approved and secure \$4 million funding for new bridge to be built (2019) from Nebraska/Capitol Hwy to Bertha westbound making walking and biking to Hillsdale from the west easier and much safer.

Secured the additional funding to construct a bridge rather than a culvert (2019) over Tryon Creek on Boones Ferry Road to complete the missing link in the Hillsdale to Lake Oswego Regional Pedestrian Trail.

Secured city funding for latest Hillsdale commercial area plan which resulted in pedestrian and other improvements in area and plans for future improvements.

Helped lead the effort to secure new sidewalk on Sunset Blvd.

Secured funding and led building of SW 25th Safe Route to School from Bertha (west) to BH Hwy just dedicated 5/12/2018.

Retired 1994

Questions? Please contact Nominations Committee Chair Matt DeRosa at matt.j.derosa@gmail.com
Please submit this form on or before May 29th, 2018 by completing the form on line on the hna-pdx.com website under Elections or sending it to matt.j.derosa@gmail.com