

Jonas G. Nordwall

I am a Portland native, and from a background perspective, my grandfather was instrumental in highway construction in Northern Oregon and SW Washington, so I have a historical perspective of Hillsdale and of Oregon that I hold dear. My wife and I chose to live in Hillsdale and raise our family, and we knew our kids would have a great education and access to any part of Portland within a reasonable time. I am a student of the Cleveland High school, and University of Portland graduate with a Bachelor's in Music and a minor in Engineering (what a combo), later a graduate of the Toronto Music Conservatory. I designed products and how to build them. My exposure to arts and engineering took me so many places and taught me to appreciate a holistic view of the world, and how important such view is for our neighborhood. My work with the First United Methodist Church spans 37 years of community and non-profit work inclusive of a great diversity of membership and the community. I've been the advocate of a central role for music and spirituality in the collective life the church and my community for the duration of my adult life. I believe in being the voice of diverse needs and interests of the community I have served.

For a community to be successful projects must benefit youth and adults, with hope, inspiration and equality being the first priority, along with safety and inclusiveness. Program that involve the afterschool hours kids have free are very important. When I was growing up, we had Portland Community Centers where kids would spend their after-school hours in a productive environment. We need local safe places, where we can be sensitive to the diversity of residents we find in Hillsdale today. It is my hope to be the voice of that inclusiveness and advocacy of Hillsdale as a member of the board of Hillsdale neighborhood association.

CANDIDATE POSITION STATEMENT

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.

* Required

NAME: Jonas G. Nordwall

DATE: May 24, 2018

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

As a 45 year resident of the Wilson Park/Hillsdale area I feel that I have a duty to contribute my skills to assist the neighborhood association which I had not had the time to do previously. I am presently retired except for my position as Artistic Director of Music/ Organist at Portland's First United Methodist Church, a position I've held since 1971.

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

My day job for over 32 years was the Product Marketing Manager for the Hillsboro based Rodgers Organ Company where I coordinated product development between the marketing, engineering and administration departments. Communication skills were a necessary requirement for this position. Also from 1973 to 1983 I was the Senior Staff Organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation and was the Oregon Symphony Organist during James DePriest's tenure. I am well acquainted with "people skills."

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

I'm concerned about auto traffic and pedestrian safety issues for everyone as my wife and I regularly see attitudes that younger people presently display regarding movement, speed and respect for everyone. We are also very concerned about the insane density plans for Portland. There are only so many natural resources to support sensible, population growth

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

The HNA needs to be more visible in mass media to present our concerns about inner city development with regards to safety, expansion and reconstruction of existing properties. As Portland is now allowing demolishing many homes that could be successfully remodeled without increasing the footprint there has to be a larger voice to "put on the brakes."

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

I would like to see a more careful approach by the City of Portland regarding their 10 year plan as it effects the Hillsdale, Wilson Park and immediately surrounding neighborhoods. From my perspective, the City pays little attention to businesses that have little or no value to a large neighborhood setting. While in the adjoining are to our neighborhood, the "G Spot" is not a family friendly business reflecting the better values of Portland.

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

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? * I have served and still serve on many local and national arts organizations which affect people.

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.

9. [Optional] If available, please PROVIDE A RESUME OR A BRIEF SUMMARY