

HNA Candidate Position Statement: NATALIA BRONNER

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

I've lived in Hillsdale for 14 years. I love my neighborhood and always considered myself very fortunate to live in Hillsdale. Last year, after I left my job for family-related reasons, I decided that it's time for me to give back to my community, make new friends and become an active participant in our neighborhood activities.

I am running for the upcoming Board election because I firmly believe that it's time for our neighborhood association to become a more welcoming, interesting, dynamic and effective organization.

Most importantly, I believe that it's time to rebuild the trust between the association and the residents for which it was created in the first place. Hillsdale residents deserve to be valued, their opinions should matter, they should be heard and listened to attentively.

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

I've made my career working as a professional accountant. The professional code of accounting ethics requires that I exercise fundamental ethical principles of integrity, objectivity, competence, due care and behavior in all aspects of my life, including those which are outside my professional career. As a Board member, I will bring these principals to our association and, strictly abide by them and ensure other board members do the same, particularly when it comes to board decisions and interaction with other members.

I want to make sure that when you come to an HNA meeting, you will be welcomed by the association with respect and empathy, that you will feel comfortable to engage in the discussions and encouraged to express your opinion. I want to make sure that after leaving the meeting, you will want to come back and invite your neighbors to attend the next meeting with you.

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

First and foremost, the HNA Board needs to practice mutual respect in all communication and interactions with its members. It is crucial to improve outreach efforts so that we have more residents involved in the association and its activities.

And, it is essential to revise the association's existing bylaws -- particularly the article which prevents 99% of residents from voting! The bylaws should be less convoluted and easier to abide by.

We live in a city which has experienced significant changes in recent years and there are more changes to come. We all must admit that changes are inevitable. However, the neighborhood association's role should be to ensure that these changes will not result in the disruption of our neighborhood stability, infrastructure and livability. Given the scope and potential impact of upcoming changes, I think the association should be more proactive and more responsive to neighborhood concerns.

How will you ensure that the HNA reflects the views of the neighborhood as a whole? *

The current HNA bylaws clearly state that "board directors shall represent the interests of the whole neighborhood encompassed by the HNA".

While we all have the right to personal opinions on neighborhood issues, when it comes to public statements and decision-making on behalf of the Hillsdale neighborhood, there should be no place for a director's opinion if it is not supported by outreach efforts and input from other neighbors.

As a Board member I would commit to strictly follow this rule and would exercise my voting rights based solely on the results of my interactions with Hillsdale residents.

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

I want to stop the vicious cycle where a hostile environment results in residents disengaging from the HNA which then enables the Board to act in the name of all residents without even asking for their input

I would like to revive the spirit of our association and I would like for the Board to become more transparent and accountable for its actions. I would like to improve neighborhood involvement in the association's activities, make the association more inviting, and make the association more effective in its decision-making and its advocacy on behalf of the neighborhood.

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

Apart from my general duties as a board director, I would like to participate in projects which provide direct assistance to those who are in need. Nothing brings more satisfaction than helping others, whether it's a physical assistance to seniors or support to families who struggle to meet their needs.

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? *

My volunteer experience include assistance in improving the financial health of low income working families and individuals (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH) Oregon) and several years of volunteering for Rebuilding Together, an organization which helps low income families fix and rehabilitate their homes. I participated in fundraising activities for the Susan G. Komen foundation, March of Dimes, Oregon Humane Society and many more.

While working for a private corporation, my professional duties included interaction with a variety of regulatory agencies (both state and federal) and assistance in litigation cases on behalf of my employer.

The HNA is concerned with issues relating to public resources, such as land use, housing, education, and transportation. Please describe your existing and prospective personal, political, financial, and business or professional interests that shape your points of view in these areas. *

I have no affiliation with any not-for-profit, political, commercial or real estate agencies or any other agencies which would raise a conflict of interest issue as a Board director. I have no personal connections with any entities which would benefit from my position on the Board. I don't own any property in Hillsdale other than my primary home on Burlingame Avenue.

How will you work with Board Members and residents who do not share your views? *

Some of the most valuable feedback I received from my former co-workers was: "Natalia, you are tough, but you are easy to work with." I believe I earned this comment by demonstrating good work ethics, my commitment to the goals of the organization, and my ability to compromise and work together to achieve those goals.

[Optional] If available, please either:upload an electronic version of your resume or C.V. provide a link to an online version of your resume or LinkedIn profile (if you choose to attach a link, then the easiest way would be to paste the link into a Word Document and then upload that document).

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/natalia-bronner-2ab853132/>