

## **Candidate Position Statement of Andrea Wall for HNA Board**

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

I am a retired occupational therapist who did some travel after retiring and now want to focus on improving my neighborhood.

I have been a Hillsdale resident and home owner for 38 years and love living here.

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

I have the ability to use creative problem solving, motivate people to work on a common goal and break tasks down into small parts. For example, when I was exploring methods to illuminate the community trail at night, I considered motion activated solar lighting, but the Orthodox Jewish Community told me that if I installed them, they would not be able to use the trail on the Sabbath as they are unable to turn on lights on that day. Neighbors along the trail did not want additional street lights shining in their windows... So I obtained "solar pebbles" that illuminate at night helping to light the way and people walking the trail seem happy with them.

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

Land use, Storm water Management, Saving Habitat and Green Spaces because if are not proactive about these issues now, we will lose our opportunities to save and protect them.

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

Be a sounding board for the neighborhood to the City and County government and agencies representing their opinions on topics that influence the livability of the area.

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

*The first priority would be to listen to the different voices in the community. Increase participation of neighbors of more diversity in age, ethnicity, as well as renters and business owners, than are currently participating in the HNA. Priorities include land use, watershed protection, storm water management maintaining as many green spaces as possible as even a small neighborhood green space can positively effect people's health and creativity.*

### **6. 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? \***

13 years as an Oregon Humane Society Volunteer, trained their animal assisted volunteers for 10 years

4 years as a volunteer for the Prison Pet Partnership Program

3 years with Abbey's Closet, an organization that provides any high school girl with a free prom dress, 2016-current

Volunteer Coordinator of the SW 25<sup>th</sup> Ave ROW Community Trail, 2016-current

2018 West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District Volunteer of the Year

SOLVE Leader, 2017-current

Advisory Board of Dove Lewis Emergency Animal Hospital's Animal Facilitated Therapy Program, 2004-2007

Raise money for Portland Audubon Society, Sound Equine Options, Cat Adoption Team, Sonoga Yong Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Wild Animal Health Fund, Hillsdale Neighborhood Association,

SW 25<sup>th</sup> Ave ROW Community Trail Project

Applied for 6 grants for the Trail Project and received 5 grants - from the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, SWNI, Portland Garden Club, Hillsdale Community Foundation, West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District

I have testified in front of Portland City Council about a law to make it illegal to abandon or give away animals on Portland City streets, 1983, to save the Portland Mounted Police 2014, 2017 and to obtain funding for supplies to build the new steps on the trail at SW Bertha and SW 25<sup>th</sup> Ave. 2017

**7. 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, not that I can contemplate happening, but if it does, I will provide full disclosure.

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

*I try hard to listen and study and learn about another's point of view; I try to understand what moves the other view, I try to see if another view hurts the community as a whole. I try to show empathy as sometimes people who are very opposed to my belief can mount strong opposition, ie., that restored and maintained community trails are good for the neighborhood, while some believe that by restoring the community trail, I am just providing a conduit for gangs and drug addicts into the neighborhood. This neighbor had spotted some gang graffiti on a trail head sign. I believe he was feeling fearful and operating from that frame of mind. I used that as my starting point and with my neighborhood contacts was able to identify the tagger, stop him, and he appears to have left the area. Research also shows that maintained, well used, community trails deter the criminal element. Time will tell if our well maintained trail does this. It is important to try ones best to keep one's eyes, mind*

and heart open when dealing with a person who thinks differently than you do. Taking a few deep breaths helps too...

**9. Please see the article about me in lieu of a resume, thank you.**

<https://swni.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/Position%20Statement%20-%20Andrea%20Wall.pdf>