

Role of the Board

The purpose of the Board is to ensure the House achieves its purpose, and the purpose of the House, ultimately, is community development.

The Board:

- considers the big picture
- develops and implements a strategic plan for the House
- ensures that House activities fit within the Neighbourhood House Program Strategic Framework
- ensures the House complies with its legal obligations and is following its Constitution
- ensures the House meets all funding agreement commitments and KPIs
- ensures the House is effective and achieves what it sets out to do
- ensures appropriate policies and procedures are in place to support and guide House operations
- employs, supports and monitors the Manager, who manages the day to day operations of the House

USE YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN TO GUIDE DECISIONS TOO.

DECISION MAKING AS A BOARD

Use your mission statement as a filter to guide decisions in Board meetings.

Ask how this decision fits the purpose and values of the House?

A good mission statement:

- defines the fundamental purpose of the House
- should be concise and easily remembered
- provides a snapshot of who you are and what you want to do

Strategic planning:

- looks at the big picture, dreams towards a better community
- is a systematic process to set short and long term goals and agree on the strategies to reach those goals



Steve Bowman summarises Board duties to be:



Stay awake



Ask questions



Read your papers



Follow the Constitution

Your strategic plan should align with the four Neighbourhood House Program goals:



CONNECT COMMUNITY



SUPPORT PEOPLE



CREATE OPPORTUNITY



LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Policies and Procedures:

- guide the day to day operations of the House
- deal with a range of topics from difficult matters such as conflict resolution to room hire
- increase accountability and transparency, keeping things consistent and on track
- provide a framework for staff and volunteers to do their job

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION!

The Constitution:

- is a set of rules or guidelines outlining how your House should operate
- is a legally binding document and it is important for the Board to work to the rules it sets out

Board members need to:

- always act in the best interest of the House
- discuss a decision thoroughly and rigorously
- listen to each other
- argue in the room
- publicly support final decisions, and not undermine them
- work together in a positive and respectful manner, building trust to make the hard decisions together
- have fun

“**The role of the Board is to make the choices that create the future we want in our communities.**”

STEVE BOWMAN: CONSCIOUS GOVERNANCE

