



6650 W. State Street, Suite D, Box 140 Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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## Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council

# FACT SHEET

The Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council (NAC) is a non-political, grassroots organization made up of residents who seek to promote a strong community. Through meetings and especially through the effective use of technology (email), the NAC seeks to promote fast and easy communication to Wauwatosa's neighborhood associations. The NAC is committed to both strengthen and energize existing neighborhood associations and to foster the establishment of new associations, upon request.

### PURPOSE

The Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council's purpose is to support neighborhood association leadership and residents by:

- 1) Keeping Wauwatosa neighborhoods strong by providing information on community quality-of-life issues, meetings and upcoming events through its meetings and the NAC eBlast.
- 2) Providing ongoing community education on the positive aspects of maintaining, supporting and strengthening Wauwatosa's neighborhood associations. Wauwatosa's neighborhood associations provide a unifying structure and benefits residents by:
  - a) Keeping neighborhood traditions going
  - b) Welcoming newcomers
  - c) Energizing neighborhoods
  - d) Bringing neighbors together while planning and attending events
  - e) Encouraging involvement in the larger community
  - f) Promoting a safe neighborhood environment.
- 3) Educating Wauwatosa's neighborhood associations about the community, the workings of city and county government and effective neighborhood association organizational development.
- 4) Promoting neighborhood associations and making them a visible, attractive aspect of life in Wauwatosa:

## **NAC MEETINGS**

The Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council meets as needed and is an opportunity for neighborhood associations to share what is happening in their neighborhoods and serves to support each association's ongoing organizational development. At NAC meetings, representatives share ideas, successes and concerns with the Wauwatosa neighborhood associations in attendance. The meetings are also structured to provide opportunities for organizational improvement. NAC meetings:

- a) Keep the city's associations "connected" and communicating with each other
- b) Create a forum for residents to share in the spirit of community within our individual neighborhoods.

## **NAC GOVERNANCE**

The NAC Board of Directors (BOD) is made up of past NAC presidents and individuals with neighborhood leadership experience. The NAC BOD sets the agenda for NAC meetings and organizes other support and informational opportunities for Wauwatosa's neighborhoods, including meeting facilitation for new neighborhoods interested in forming an association.

## **HISTORY OF THE NAC**

In late spring of 1994, the civic organization Wauwatosa Tomorrow began holding informal "support meetings" for the neighborhood associations that had begun to form through their grassroots efforts to proactively strengthen neighborhoods. These meetings served as a sounding board for the newly-formed associations and were an opportunity to share ideas, report on progress and support each other's efforts. The group formalized as the Neighborhood Association Council (NAC) in the winter of 1994. Currently, active neighborhood associations in Wauwatosa send one or two representatives to attend NAC meetings. All residents of neighborhood associations in Wauwatosa are welcome to attend the NAC meetings, and community groups may present to the NAC by requesting a place on the agenda in advance.