

Collaboration Basics for Neighborhood Planning

Everybody should be:

- Involved in the discussion.
- Able to live with the decision.
- Able to publicly support the decision.

Collaboration should promote creativity and engagement, and members should feel ownership of the group's decision.

Every member should be able to say:

- I believe that you understand my point of view.
- I believe I understand your point of view.
- I am willing to support the alternative.

How to collaborate

- Be an active listener
- Encourage participation
- Share information & treat differences as strengths
- Avoid changing your mind to keep harmony
- Do trade or bargain for support
- Do not move for a vote when people get frustrated
- Create a solution that can be supported by all.

Differences when people collaborate

Standouts are exceptions to reaching a decision. Standouts should stay involved and not yield to pressure, clearly explain their reasons for blocking consensus, and offer solutions that would remove the block.

The rest of the group should support the standout, keep listening, consider the standout's solutions, and keep talking.



How to reach a decision

- “I can acknowledge that this is the best overall decision, even though I still have some reservations.”
- “I can give 100% support for this decision.”

Decisions can be made when:

- Everyone has been heard.
- Everyone can live with the decision.
- Every can support the decision.

