

It's Official-- Now What?

Velda McDonald

{The late Velda McDonald was active in helping organize the up hill for the last expansion of the NSHD. This article, found by Marilyn Torgerson, was written by Velda and summarizes the work she accomplished in writing the 501(c)(3) for the NSHD.}

In December 2003 the North Slope Historic District incorporated as a nonprofit in the state of Washington. This year the NSHD was recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service. This means that donations made to the NSHD are tax deductible, depending on the donor's tax status.

For about 10 years the NSHD had operated with an informal steering committee. Various participants during those years had discussed the advantages of a more formal organization. It was decided that the time had come to admit that the NSHD neighborhood would benefit as a recognized nonprofit, thus allowing the Board of Directors to involve the NSHD in more activities for the neighborhood. As a legal entity and 501(c)(3), the NSHD is eligible for grants, but the application process must still be completed by an individual.

Members of the Steering Committee were identified as the organizing board of directors for the corporation and served for a year. An election was held in February 2005 to determine who will serve on the board for the next two years. All residents and property owners in the NSHD are voting members of the organization. Any resident or property owner is eligible to run for a seat on the board. As a resident or owner you may bring concerns or possible projects to the board. If you wish to attend a board meeting, then call president to make arrangements, especially if you wish to be on the agenda. The meetings are at 7pm the fourth Wednesday of odd numbered months.

One reminder about the rules for 501(c)(3) organizations: The organization may not participate in political campaigns. This does not mean that individuals who are members of the board can not participate and support the candidates of their choice. Members of the Board of Directors must make it clear that they are not representing the NSHD but are presenting their own views. This is an important point for the NSHD because it is established to promote, educate others, and support historic preservation in the NSHD, Tacoma, the state and in general. The organization is allowed to hold candidates' nights for all candidates running for a specific office.