



# COMMUNITY BUILDER

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## Why Should Your Community Implement a Lifestyle Committee?

One primary focus of the board of directors in an association is managing and regulating the common areas and amenities of the community. However, more than focusing solely on long-term community preservation is required. Now more than ever, communities and their boards are looking for ways to connect, build strong relationships, and enhance the overall enjoyment of those residing in the association. This is where a lifestyle committee can help!



Creating a vibrant and engaged community while allowing the board to continue to focus on the preservation efforts takes work. A lifestyle committee is designed to support a board by taking the lead on cultivating community relations, enhancing the quality of life in the community, and opening a platform for homeowners to voice opinions and provide critical feedback

Here are the top 4 reasons why adding a lifestyle committee to your community should be at the top of your next board meeting agenda:

1. **BUILDING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY** - A lifestyle committee can help develop a sense of community within the neighborhood. By organizing events such as block parties, holiday celebrations, and community service projects, the committee provides residents with opportunities to get to know their neighbors and build relationships. These social connections help create a sense of belonging and help foster strong relationships for residents of your community.
2. **ENHANCED QUALITY OF LIFE** - A lifestyle committee can improve the quality of life for residents by providing access to recreational activities and amenities. For example, the committee may organize fitness classes, book clubs, or movie nights. By offering these activities, the committee can encourage residents to

lead active and healthy lifestyles, leading to improved physical and mental health.

3. **INCREASED PROPERTY VALUES** - A lifestyle committee can help increase the community's property values. A well-maintained and active community association can make the community more attractive to potential buyers, increasing demand and drive-up property values. Additionally, by organizing events and activities, the committee can create a positive reputation for the community, which makes it a more desirable place to live.
4. **VOICE OPINIONS** - A lifestyle committee can provide a platform for residents to voice their opinions and concerns. By organizing regular town hall meetings and soliciting feedback from residents, the committee can help ensure that the community's needs and preferences are taken into account. This can help build trust between residents and the association board and lead to more effective decision-making. A lifestyle committee can help ensure the association complies with state and federal laws. For example, if the association provides recreational amenities such as a swimming pool or playground, it may be required to comply with safety regulations or accessibility requirements. The lifestyle committee can help oversee these areas and ensure the association is compliant.

Once you have established the need for a lifestyle committee, a focus on maintaining and establishing its scope comes to the top of mind. Here are 10 steps to creating and maintaining a lifestyle committee in your community:



1. **ASSESS NEEDS** - Before appointing a lifestyle committee, the board should thoroughly assess the community's needs and interests. This can be achieved by soliciting feedback through surveys, town hall meetings, or online platforms. Understanding the preferences and concerns of residents will help tailor the committee's focus and ensure it aligns with the community's desires.
2. **DEFINE RESPONSIBILITIES** - The board should clearly define the responsibilities and scope of the lifestyle committee. This may include organizing social events, managing recreational facilities, implementing wellness initiatives, coordinating educational programs, or addressing specific community concerns. By establishing a well-defined purpose, the committee can operate effectively and be accountable for its actions.
3. **SEEK VOLUNTEERS** - Once the committee's responsibilities are established, the board should actively seek volunteers from the community who are interested in participating. This can be done through newsletters, community notice boards, association websites, or by directly contacting residents. Encourage a diverse range of volunteers who bring different skills, perspectives, and experiences to ensure a well-rounded committee.
4. **REVIEW APPLICATIONS** - The board should review volunteer applications carefully to ensure a capable and dedicated lifestyle committee. Consider relevant experience, availability, commitment level, and enthusiasm for the role. Aim for a balanced mix of talents and personalities within the committee to maximize its effectiveness and appeal to a broad range of residents.

5. **CONDUCT INTERVIEWS** - In some cases, conducting interviews with potential committee members can be beneficial in assessing their suitability for the role. Interviews provide an opportunity to gauge their interpersonal skills, teamwork abilities, and passion for community engagement. While only essential for some associations, interviews can help the board make informed decisions when selecting committee members.
6. **APPOINT MEMBERS** - Based on the review process and, if applicable, the interviews, the board should appoint committee members who best fit the association's needs and goals. Notify all applicants of the outcome, expressing appreciation for their interest and encouraging continued involvement in the community. Make sure to maintain transparency and communicate the rationale behind the selection process.
7. **ESTABLISH STRUCTURE** - Once the committee is formed, the board should assist in establishing its structure and select a committee chair or president. The chair should possess strong leadership qualities, organizational skills, and the ability to communicate effectively with the board and residents. Encourage the committee to elect additional roles, such as a secretary or treasurer, based on the committee's size and needs.
8. **PROVIDE SUPPORT** - To ensure a smooth transition and successful start for the committee, the board should provide an orientation session. This session should cover the association's bylaws, rules and regulations, budgetary constraints, and any specific protocols the committee should follow. Regularly communicate with the committee, offering guidance, support, and feedback throughout its tenure.
9. **MONITOR AND EVALUATE PERFORMANCE** - The board should regularly monitor its activities and evaluate its performance against predefined objectives. This can be achieved through periodic reports, attending committee meetings, or establishing a liaison between the board and the committee. Assess the committee's effectiveness in fulfilling its responsibilities and solicit resident feedback to gauge community satisfaction.
10. **RECOGNITION**- Acknowledge the committee's efforts and achievements by publicly recognizing its contributions to the community and highlighting successful events.

A lifestyle committee is an essential component of a successful community association. By building community, enhancing the quality of life, increasing property values, and providing a platform for resident feedback lifestyle committees can help create a vibrant and engaged community for all residents to enjoy.

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Kristan Ward currently serves as the Division President for Sentry-Nashville. With over 16 years of industry experience, Kristan proudly holds an Association Management Specialist (AMS) and Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA) designation. In addition, she serves on the Tennessee Legislative Action Committee for Community Associations Institute.



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