



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
in Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 1 February 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Join Us for a CoHo Potluck on Sunday, February 12th, 4:45pm.

Stop by, meet CoHo members, and enjoy great food. Call Susan at 541-753-4453 for directions and info on what to bring.

Mock Home Selection Session

CoHo is on track for ground breaking this summer. As a result we are currently in the process of selecting our individual homes.

Like many cohousing communities, CoHo explored how other groups had orchestrated the process of home selection and then added their own twist. CoHo faced the special challenge of having so many households (22 out of 34) making preliminary home selections at the same time.

The process CoHo designed focused on needs/wants, home preferences, and affinity preferences by building.

Because CoHo members use the non-violent communication (NVC) model, we started with a focus on needs and wants. Members identified both needs (factors significantly impacting their choices that had to be honored or met in some way, such as a need to avoid stairs due to health concerns) and wants (qualities that were desired, but not as imperative as needs, such as wanting to be close to parking).



Next, members listed up to 10 choices of specific homes.

Last, members rated a list of building affinities—projects that are building-dependent, like solar panels or a shared dog yard. Affinities were included to enable members with

similar affinities to select the same building so their projects were more likely to occur. Money/labor for affinities will be the responsibility of the members in each building.



In mid January at the Mock Home Selection session (a non-binding trial run of the process), homes were selected in membership number order (based on seniority in the project) and miraculously, everyone had a home.

The group debriefed the process and is getting set for the Final Home Selection to be held in February.

In the future, home selections will be made on an individual basis as new members join the group. They will have access to the list of needs/wants and affinity preferences when they make a selection so they are aware of the perspectives of their future neighbors.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

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