

## Participation Guidelines for Green Grove Cohousing Community

Membership in community comes with the underlying assumption that all will participate in the care of each other and the common property. Cohousing communities are generally self-managed, and largely self-maintained. People join, in part, to “be the change” they wish to see in the world by working and playing together, and fostering deeper connections. No new member is expected to make up for the countless hours their predecessors have invested in the community. That work came with its own rewards. Still, as pioneers in establishing a new community, the workload is larger, as are the opportunities to shape the future. Participation is unlikely to realistically ever be equal. Still, the idea is to distribute responsibility equitably, and create a level of personal participation that enables all members to feel valued and valuable, and truly a part of the community.

That said, community will not meet all of our social and personal needs, and Green Grove members are expected to continue to have and develop a range of activities and social contacts beyond GG. Additionally, all of us have times in our lives where personal or family health challenges prevent us from participating in community life to the fullest extent, and professional obligations which, at times, are not negotiable. However, once individuals become full members, they are expected to make every effort to substantially contribute to the life of the community. (These guidelines do not apply to Associate Members.)

***Upon approval of membership***, each adult member of Green Grove is expected to participate regularly ***unless personal or family health challenges, or job requirements make it unworkable for a given period*** in five categories of involvement:

- Monthly business meetings*** -minimum 10 per year. Via Skype or conference call =.5)
- Community potlucks*** -minimum 8 per year (generally held monthly 9 x yr.+)
- Work share & special projects***- (minimum 2 hrs. per month) may include projects that can be done remotely such as newsletter articles and/ or on-site such as gardening
- Social events***- (participate in at least half of group events to get to know and vet prospective members, or deepen connections outside the context of monthly potlucks such as walking tours, wine-tastings, restaurant outings, musical performances, bike rides, parent/child playgroups, art classes or other mutually agreed upon events- generally averaging one a month)
- ***Special events***-minimum twice a year, may involve 6-8 hours each (National Cohousing Day Open House, Harvest Open House and Solstice Party)

***Once members live on site, participation requirements would increase*** based on community needs, by decision of adult members. Individuals unable to commit to this level of participation may need to defer the request for membership until such time as they are able to, but preference will be given to membership candidates who are able to participate at these minimum levels (or higher).

-Adopted 11/10/17