



Cohousing in Corvallis

An E Newsletter from CoHo Cohousing
Corvallis, Oregon

Issue 19 June 2006



Remember when your best friend lived right next door?

Facilitation Committee—The “Green Card” Gurus

Attending a community meeting is a prerequisite for [joining CoHo's membership](#) queue. The folks who get much of the credit for making that “first impression” of CoHo so positive are the members of the Facilitation Committee.

CoHo's Facilitation Committee coordinates the design and flow of our general community meetings held twice a month. They facilitate the meetings to keep us on track and in sync with NVC ([nonviolent communication](#)).



Prior to each meeting, agenda items are requested from members and committees with topic, time,



background materials, and action desired. The facilitator for the next meeting builds a draft agenda.



With discussion and input from committee members, the draft is transformed into a final agenda.

Members of the committee rotate as facilitators and sometimes even trade off during a meeting as needed. The facilitator dons a colorful CoHo hat (see April in group photo above) and can step out of the facilitator role to make a personal comment by removing the hat.

CoHo uses the colored card system for discussion and consensus. Green cards signify agreement, hence the title the “Green Card” Gurus.

Out-of-town members and folks in the membership queue can call into the meetings using our conference phone-in feature. Facilitators (and helpers) get a work-out moving the microphone around the room to capture all voices.



The Facilitation Committee often initiates new techniques and approaches. This year they have introduced a short refresher called *Consensus Corner*, used several different icebreaker activities, added games/songs/poetry at the opening and closing of the meeting and during breaks, and given renewed emphasis to a closing critique of the meeting so we can all reflect on ways to improve our interactions.

The community recently adopted a Facilitation Committee proposal to experiment with consent-based sociocracy--a strong and efficient decision-making process which involves all members of the organization, ensuring inclusiveness, accountability, and transparency while increasing productivity. Training will be provided to committee chairpersons (and other interested CoHo members). Committees will use sociocratic techniques for three months, then evaluate the results. With a thumbs up from the group, other sociocratic techniques may be used to streamline the process for our annual election of officers this fall.

A key to the continued success of our Facilitation Committee is their amazing ability to help us end meetings on time. In the meeting-intensive culture of cohousing, that is a gift.

Member Close-Up

Jessica and Jeremy joined CoHo in February 2006 to have connections and friendships with neighbors, a safe and friendly community (with playmates!) for their children, and support/encouragement in living a more sustainable lifestyle. They also look forward to the various skills and hobbies they hope to develop with the help of their talented neighbors in CoHo.



Jessica enjoys being a long-distance member of the Membership Committee because it helps her get to know new folks a bit. Jessica maintains our membership directory (which is updated often!) and tracks meeting attendance. She also shares her talents in a variety of the long-distance tasks that surface, like summarizing survey results and researching topics on the national cohousing list serv. Jeremy is on the P&P (Policies and Procedures) Committee, working on the home business policy. Jessica and Jeremy also phone into community meetings when possible.

Jessica and Jeremy will fit right into the fun-loving spirit of CoHo because they are big fans of board games and card games. They also enjoy biking and walking rather than driving.

Rachel (14 months old) loves sandboxes, bubbles, and games of "tag." Shoshana (who just turned 4) is devoting most of this summer to playing with water, running and dancing, as well as imagination games with her best friend. Both girls are also looking forward to grandma and grandpa (aka Debby and Ron) being their CoHo neighbors.

It's a "Sign of the Times"



A "sign of progress" now appears on our site in the form of this sign announcing CoHo Cohousing.

Folks walking, biking, and driving by can now anticipate even more changes when construction starts this summer.

Once construction is launched, watch our website for regular photo updates of the on-site activities.

Living in a Neighborhood of Neighborly Neighbors

Giving and receiving a "helping hand" will be a part of daily life in CoHo. Here are some images of neighborly moments we are enjoying already....

		
<p>Giving cooking tips (you can count on Steve for delicious dishes at potlucks)</p>	<p>Solving life's puzzles (Xochil is a persistent puzzler)</p>	<p>Sharing canine kisses (Shannon laughs while Augie & Chaser are smooching pooches)</p>
		
<p>Carving the Thanksgiving squash (aka vegetarian turkey), now a perennial guest at CoHo holiday gatherings</p>	<p>Sharing a passion (Talented CoHoots dazzle neighbors with their synchronized flashing needles)</p>	<p>Selecting the perfect tool (Katie checks out two shovels at our groundbreaking)</p>
		
<p>Celebrating Oregon residency (Nancy helps Susan by putting NEW license plates on her car while Jennie supervises)</p>	<p>Revealing the secrets of success (Steve tells Katie how to make her first million \$\$\$)</p>	<p>Reading a map (Dave and Ken mark Common House boundaries by deciphering Richard's map)</p>
		
<p>Finding lost children (Juva spots major clue— wiggling legs)</p>	<p>Learning a new skill (Steve and Sue are a whirling button- spinning duo)</p>	<p>Demonstrating how to relax anywhere anytime (Dave and Juva enjoying a mellow moment)</p>

July Welcome Weekend

If you'd like to check out CoHo membership, call us to RSVP for our [July Welcome Weekend](#) on Saturday, July 8th and Sunday, July 9th. Local and out-of-town visitors are welcome for one or more events—presentation (Q&A), potluck, brunch, land walk, and community meeting. Two households have already made plans to join us.



Is it time to make your dream of living in community come true?

The clock is striking 8, marking the time that 8 homes are still available in CoHo!

This clock is on the Benton County Courthouse in downtown Corvallis. Built in 1889, it is the oldest active courthouse in the state of Oregon.

To find out more about CoHo Cohousing

Website: <http://www.cohousing-corvallis.com/index.shtml>

Email: cohocontact@cohousing-corvallis.com

Phone: [Juva DuBoise @ 541-908-5882](#) →

[Susan Hyne @ 541-753-4453](#) →



Susan (aka neighborly neighbor) walking Zeekie while Juva and Dennis are out of town being neighborly neighbors by facilitating a session for another community

Click [HERE](#) to read issues of previous newsletters on our website

A proud P.S. from Corvallis residents...



Oregon State University Beavers won the national college baseball world series!!!!

Their triumph was proclaimed on this sign hanging on the First Presbyterian Church at Monroe and 8th Street:

"It's about keeping the faith. Congratulations OSU Baseball."