

Council and Committees at Earthaven

Council Meetings are held twice a month in the Council Hall, usually on Sunday afternoons. Sometimes special Council Meetings are held on Friday evenings. Decisions are made by consensus of all full, active members attending in any given meeting. A decision passes if 85% or more of the members consent. The agenda is published several days before each Council meeting. Agenda items include committee reports, task reviews, proposals for changes in policy, to OK special requests, and to consider matters more important than can be handled in committees.

Provisional and Supporting Members and visitors are welcome to attend Council Meetings

Committee Meetings are held during the day or evening, usually on weekdays, and in various locations around Earthaven, including in members' homes. Committees make decisions by consensus, and post their decisions in their minutes. During the three-week period following the posting a full member can object to a committee's decision. If so, the committee revisits the issue or takes it to Council. If, after three weeks no one objects to a committee's decision, it stands.

Provisional Members and Supporting Members are welcome to attend any committee meetings as observers. They may also do tasks for committees for community service credit, and, if there's an opening and the committee agrees, they can become members of committees.

Fire Keeper Orbo

- **Fire Keeper:** Chosen in the annual meeting each December for the following calendar year, the Fire Keeper looks at the well-being of the whole community, and at Spirit or "that which cannot be named." Corresponds to "president" of Earthaven Association; oversees legal aspects of Earthaven and signs official documents that year. "Orbo" (or "Orgbo") is a Nigerian village word for a task and action team.

- **Agenda Planners:** Chooses items, times allotted, and other of the items for each upcoming Council Meeting's agenda.

- **Firetenders:** A committee that assists the Fire Keeper in his or her duties, looking at the well-being of the whole community. Firetenders administers several subcommittees:

- **Care Team:** Helps individual members who may have various kinds of physical or emotional needs, from people who need better housing to people who are feeling isolated or who are seeking mediation with another member or resident.

- **Safety Committee:** Looks out for issues of personal safety (emergency illness needs, personal safety) and community safety (fire, theft, intruders).

- **Accountability Team:** Focuses on helping people catch up and meet their responsibilities to Earthaven who are behind in community service owed or in dues and fees.

- **Spirit Walker Orbo:** Plans and hosts rituals, celebrations, and other opportunities to celebrate Spirit as a community.

Water Bearer Orbo

- **Water Bearer:** Chosen in the annual meeting each December for the following calendar year, the Water Bearer is the head of the Water Bearer Orbo, corresponding as "treasurer" of Earthaven Association. Responsible for the whole of Earthaven's finances for that year.

- **Finance Committee:** Administers the collecting of Joining Fees, Site Lease Fees, annual dues and fees, and other sources of income. Pays annual expenses, oversees cash flow, recommends annual budget, works out special payment arrangements with individuals when appropriate. Subcommittees:

- **CurentSee Committee:** Administers the Leap System.

- **Documents Committee:** Researches and suggests revisions to existing Earthaven documents, such as the ByLaws of Earthaven Association, and Land Use and Common Rights Agreement (LUCRA).

Air Spinner Orbo

Air Spinner: Chosen in the annual meeting each December for the following calendar year, the Air Spinner is the head of the Air Spinner Orbo, corresponding to “secretary “ of Earthaven Association. Responsible for all Council and Committee minutes, internal communications, record-keeping, and documents for that year.

- **Promotions Committee:** Promotes Earthaven to visitors and community seekers through media, events, Earthaven’s website, and Earthaven’s newsletters; works with inquiring media.

- **Visitor Committee:** Hosts Earthaven visitors, administers the weekly tours, manages the campground.

- **Membership Committee:** Administers the steps of the new-member process; helps people enter Earthaven and hosts the processes in which Earthaven members assess new people as potential members.

- **New Roots Committee:** Helps orient non-member residents to Earthaven, helps hosts and employers fulfill their responsibilities to WEXers, long-term guests, Employee Residents, etc.

Earth Delver Orbo:

Earth Delver: Chosen in the annual meeting each December for the following calendar year, the Earth Delver is the head of the Earth Delver Orbo. While this role corresponds to “vice president” of Earthaven Association, the Earth Delver is actually responsible for the construction, repair, and maintenance of Earthaven’s physical infrastructure for that year. Duties include supervising the labor exchange coordinator, the tool and material manager, and the Earthaven work-exchanger.

- **Capital Projects Design Committee:** Creates design, budget, implementation and evaluation of all capital projects.

- **Capital Projects Evaluation Meeting:** Semi-annual community wide process of evaluating capital projects. All are invited.

- **Land Use/Site Planning Committee:** Oversees the general maintenance team, the road maintenance team, the hydro team, and the spring water team. Creates and implements Land Use guidelines; designs and plans all common land development; monitors compliance with LUCRA and Hut Site Guidelines; monitors compliance with Ecological and Good neighbor guidelines; approves residential and commercial site plans; creates guidelines for use of community resources; Provides accountability for Land Use fees, dues, sales, etc.,

- **Forest & Ag Committee (FAC):** Creates and implements Forest and Ag standards and guidelines; Uphold EHs’ Forest and Ag mission; oversees all common land clearing; adjudicates disputes between farmers and the community; approves the design, plan, budget for each item of AG infrastructure; designates, approves, and monitors AG leases

Ad Hoc Committees

- **Strategic Planning:** Administers Earthaven’s strategic planning process.

- **Ad Hoc Campground Committee:** Focalizing short-term and longer-term improvements to the new campground.