

## **Welcome to Sonora Cohousing!**

Thank you for your interest in Sonora Cohousing. Living in a cohousing community is different from living in a regular subdivision in a number of ways. The most important difference is that by choosing to live here, you are choosing to be a part of our community, which comes with benefits and responsibilities. If you choose to live here, we ask that you be willing to be involved in community life, work, and governance. **Each member's active participation in the community is vital in order to keep the community evolving and thriving.**

### Before you buy or rent:

We'd like you to get to know us (and vice versa) before closing on your home or signing a lease agreement. Potential buyers or renters are asked to attend at least three community events, including common meals, community or team meetings, and/or other community events. Please contact the outreach team to find out upcoming scheduled events. Feel free to ask lots of questions; each coho member has lots to say and has a unique perspective!

### After you move in:

Once you move in you will be assigned a buddy; another community member who will help you get oriented to life at Sonora Cohousing. Of course, every community member is there to help as well and you can always contact the outreach team with any question or concerns.

### Decision making at Sonora Cohousing:

Most major decisions in the community are made at the monthly General Meeting. We hope that at least one adult from each household attends these meetings and participates. We have a voting system, which tries to reach consensus and to make sure that everybody's voice is heard. We are all a part of the decision making process.

### Work participation requirement:

Because we manage and maintain our community property and facilities ourselves, every adult resident is asked to contribute four hours per month to the community workload. Every resident is expected to join and participate in at least one work team or committee, or take on a specific ongoing job. Your buddy can help you sign up for

work teams via our website when you are ready to choose where you would like to prioritize your time.

We also have regularly scheduled work parties where we tackle larger projects. **Working together for common goals has been a cornerstone of building community relationships.**

#### Pet Policy:

Our pet policy attempts to minimize problems with pets due to the proximity of our homes. The policy regarding dogs recognizes that the local leash laws apply. Dog owners must immediately pick up dog poop. We have a dog park in the community for dogs to run off leash. We have a policy of no free roaming outdoor cats.

#### Conflict resolution:

Conflicts do arise from time to time. It is our expectation and hope that people actively work on solving any conflict that arises. We have community members available to assist you if you need help working or communicating with another community member. Please contact your buddy or outreach team for further info.

#### Email list serve and website:

We do have a listserve for the community. Email is a useful communication tool however we have learned that sometimes email can lead to incorrect assumptions. If you feel that an email thread is becoming unclear or hurtful please make an attempt to speak with community members in person.

Our internal website contains a wealth of information including our policy documents. Your buddy will give you a “tour” of the website and help you get connected. Then you can sign up via the website for teams, guest room reservations and common meals.

#### Once again welcome!

We realize that it takes time to adjust to living here and encourage you to take the time you need to explore how the community will work best for you. We hope that you will find your life enriched by becoming a member of a Sonora Cohousing.