

What is the Difference Between A Residents Association and a Community Association?

A resident association puts neighborhoods into communities, a community association puts communities into neighborhoods.

Resident Association

Residential developers plan and create exceptional new communities with additional amenities such as green spaces, parks, tree lined boulevards, and much more. All of this with the residents needs in mind, quality of life and friendly design which all add to the feel.

These communities are turned over to the City of Calgary from the developers once residents start to move in. There are some improvements in these communities that the City of Calgary does not recognize and maintain, such as optional amenities like water fountains, gazebos, and park features. By utilizing the revenue from resident fees, the Resident Association's were put in place to fill this gap to operate, maintain and manage these amenities.

In Auburn Bay, the amenities include:

- Auburn House and Auburn House Park & Lake (water park, water fall, creek, picnic areas, skating rinks, beach volleyball courts, tennis courts, basketball nets)
- Decorative corners throughout the community

Community Association

The purpose of community associations is to meet the needs of the community and they can play a representative role. They are run solely by a volunteer board and are responsive to their membership. The membership fee is minimal and involvement is voluntary.

Community Association can help protect the interests of our neighborhood, including surrounding developments, transportation, zoning, and a wide assortment of community issues. The board members have direct contact with the Alderman, MLA, Police Liaison Officer, and other government officials on a monthly basis.

What role can Community Association's play in building a sense of community?

- Give residents a voice – listen and support member's ideas
- Create a feeling of shared community values and common interests
- Act as a resource and the first stop for quality information
- Create a sense of community celebration, pride and identity
- Find ways to create an inclusive environment including events
- Make communication job one!
- Look to community resources, the City and others for collaborations and partnerships
- Find ways to engage people in community planning – promoting a voice in municipal decisions
- Partnerships with local businesses
- Promote the notion of safe communities through citizen engagement
- By declaring and articulating a urgency to issues that affect community life