

Aladdin Project

Looking for a way you can donate ideas, time, skills, plants or money to make Oceana an even better place? The Aladdin Project is a way for members of our community to carry out projects which are not covered by the budget, but could be funded by gifts from individuals, groups or units. Individuals as well as OCA's various committees and groups are encouraged to suggest possible projects. Then, upon approval, the interested individuals can undertake the project themselves and/or solicit help from others in our community.

The Oceana Rocks Garden on Vista Campana across from O Street is an example of such a project. Neighbors worked side by side to clear out the old vegetation, shift the piles of rocks, donate plants, benches and money, plant new flowers and succulents, and then enjoy a dedication ceremony when all was finished. Now we have a pleasant little park which many sit down and enjoy every day.

Rationale –

There must be many projects in our community which would be desirable but cannot be done because of budgetary restraints. There are also very likely individuals or groups in our community who would be willing and able to fund or work on a project that interests them. Perhaps someone is looking for a memorial to a departed loved one or for a way to do something for their neighbors and our community.

How the Aladdin Project functions –

An individual or group communicates to the Board the desire to undertake a project. They suggest one of their number to serve as Aladdin or ask the Board to help find a volunteer to serve in that capacity. Aladdin does not do the work, but rather oversees the project, seeking donations, recruiting volunteers, and in general coordinating the work.

The leader is named **Aladdin** for good reason. You'll recall that Aladdin didn't do the magical things himself, but rather he kept the lamp from which the genie popped out and granted wishes. So our Aladdin promotes the project, seeking genies, i.e. donors, to pop out and grant our wish that the project become reality.

Examples of possible projects –

- Purchasing a bench at some new location
- Funding a paved walking path in some area
- Establishing a meeting point in a unit – perhaps a picnic table or benches with a covering, maybe a gazebo
- Planning and financing an activity
- Purchasing new equipment for the billiards room, art room, etc.
- Funding some handicapped-accessible improvement
- Fixing up the dog park
- Building an outdoor exercise area, a basketball backboard, or another pickleball court

Note: A second and similar opportunity is the Adopt-a-Spot Program which allows residents to spruce up common areas within the community. Adopt-a-Spot projects are typically small scale (such as a corner). The biggest difference is that the Adopt-A-Spot DOES NOT have fund raising attached to it. Volunteers carry out their beautification efforts through personal labor and their own funds.

Gifts for Aladdin Projects –

If the donor wishes, gifts for Aladdin projects can be acknowledged in *Hilltop Highlights*. The donor could state that the gift was given *in memory of a deceased loved one, to note someone's 90th birthday or a 50th wedding anniversary*, or the like.

Thanks for considering this opportunity to help our community.