

Election Committee Meeting

May 21, 2020 at 12 Noon

Held in Person

Committee Members Present: Manny Seligmann, Jack Horner, Cheryl Lateer, Dale Jensen (Chair), Karen Harvey and Maureen McDowell

Guest Speaker: Geoff Lorah

Audience Members: Pattie Aho (President, BOD), Derrick Hedges (Manager), Hank Killion

1. **Election Committee Guidelines, Election Timeline and other related questions**

Geoff Lorah handed out Statutes Chapter 720 regarding the Sunshine Law for FL – the committee wanted some explanation as to the secret ballot that RWA uses for its Annual Election process. This process seemed cumbersome. Mr. Lorah explained that as stated in the statute the inner and outer envelopes are the only way to identify the person who is voting and the eventual secretiveness of that ballot.

We also discussed the timeline for the election process. Mr. Lorah shared with us the history of how the ballots are prepared for mailing and that a resident in RW, Mr. Mitchell, has handled that process for years. It takes about two weeks for the ballots to be two weeks for the ballot to go to the printer and then about two weeks for the resident to collate the ballot, place it in the envelope and mail.

We discussed the mailing process at length. We initially discussed how much the postage cost RWA and if there were any savings that could be obtained. Mr. Lorah shared the actual costs for several years. He also shared with the group the actual ballot that was used in 2019. The only variance between year to year is the Candidate Statement part. This is due to the number of candidates running for office. It was determined to keep the same process as what has been used in the past.

Mr. Lorah shared with the group the stats on the successful mailing of the ballots:

- 110 returned undeliverable
- 2425 ballots mailed successfully
- 34 had unsigned outer envelopes
- 4 had two ballots in one envelope
- 7 votes cast for the same lot

During this discussion, we talked about electronic voting. It was determined that not every resident of RW uses a computer and that might leave out a number of people who could otherwise vote. We determined to leave the mail-in ballot as is.

We also discussed that a resident need to be in good standing in order to votes..." If you are 90 or more days delinquent in dues or fines, your vote may not be counted." The committee wanted clarification that this is fact a true statement.

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The committee discussed the two Candidate Workshops planned later this year. It was determined that the first one will be held on Thursday, June 18 and the second one will be held on Thursday, July 16 both at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

2. **Discussion about the election lock box**

We discussed at length about the box being too small and how the box is emptied and by whom it is emptied. We determined that the RWA Manager will have a key and Mr. Lorah will have a key. The box needs to be bigger so that it does not fill up so quickly.

3. **Policy about RWA being about to vote the lots they own**

The Committee would like the Board to create a policy where RWA BOD does not vote the lots that RW owns. This action will be taken up by the Board on May 21, 2020.

4. **Voting recount**

The Committee also discussed what triggers a recount of votes. Mr. Lorah explained that in 2019 a recount was initiated due to the fact that there were 7 votes different between second and third place. The staff present counting the votes determined that would be the prudent thing to do. However, the committee wanted a stronger commitment. It was determined that a recount will be triggered when less than 20 votes separate the candidates.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Karen Harvey, Secretary of the Election Committee

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