

## VMA Election Committee Meeting

**November 15, 2021**

Members: Peter Kahn; Paul Weller; Natalie Welle; Leah Craft; George McAleese

Village: Andrew Kauders; Village Manager; 4 Village Residents

7:03 Meeting Comes to Order

7:04 Comments from the Chair

- Shortening meeting duration
- Getting minutes completed and posted online

7:09 Proposed charter amendments

- P. Kahn proposing 4 Amendments
  - #1: Changing 602(a) of Charter to change timing of opening of nominations from no less than 60 days to no less than 75 days before the date of the election
  - #2: Changing to 602(b) of the Charter to change deadline for notice of candidates from 14 days to four weeks prior to the date of the election
  - #3: Changing Section 602(g) to remove ability of Council to cancel an uncontested election in the event of an emergency declared by the Governor
  - #4: Modifying 602(f) to add language ""Prior to the enactment of any provision governing elections, the Council shall consult with the Election Committee concerning the policy and proposed terms of the provision.""
- Proposal #3 discussion questioned what circumstances could happen that would require cancelation of an election rather than just postponement
  - Natalie: Cancelling uncontested elections does not account for write-ins, which have been successful in the past
- Question as to if proposal 4 relates to just time-bounded considerations (elections operates on a schedule) vs. applying to all election provisions
- P Kahn says #4 is intended to ensure Council members have the benefit of informed advice when making changes to Village law governing elections.
  - A Kaunders looking at timing and the multiple steps that would have to be taken for this to move forward
  - Village Manager updated Committee on the process requirements for Charter amendments and public notice and comment periods
  - Maryland Municipal Law governs amendments to the Charter
- P Kahn proposes voting on presenting these to the Council
- Paul W calls for a vote
- George moves for a vote on the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 (Natalie seconds)
- VOTE ON PRESENTING THE FIRST 3 (5-0)
- Vote on the 4<sup>th</sup> one. Natalie moves to accept 4<sup>th</sup>. Paul seconds)
- VOTE ON PRESENTING THE 4<sup>th</sup>: (4-1 (George votes nay))

- Village Manager: Interpretation of Ron is that Election is Election Day and runoff would have to be within 2 weeks (pursuant to Charter 602(d))
  - Potential for Committee to propose an additional change
  - Peter will send to the Committee the proposed language over the next few days
  - George moves to make that recommendation (Natalie seconds)
  - VOTE 5-0

#### 7:54 Election Plan & Rules

- P Kahn: My understanding was that we would have in-person drop off on Election Day, not a hybrid election
  - Everyone gets ballots mailed to them.
  - Election Day is May 10
  - People can drop ballots in mail
  - People can bring signed/sealed ballots to table and put it into our drop box
  - People can sign/seal their ballots there
  - For people without a copy of their ballot. At that time we take their name/address, we take name/address, email the contractor to cancel their existing ballot and have the contractor overnight them a ballot that they can then return
  - MOTION TO ACCEPT THIS AS PLAN: Natalie moves. Paul 2nds.
    - VOTE: 5-0
- Election Dates:
  - Election Day May 10<sup>th</sup>
  - February 18<sup>th</sup> Nominations open
  - Nominations Close on the 18<sup>th</sup> & materials are due the 25<sup>th</sup>
    - George: Adding language to be clear about what the deadline means (received in the Committee inbox – 6:00:00 PM)
    - Motion by George
    - Motion passes 5-0
  - March 28<sup>th</sup> – announcement of candidates
  - Approx. April 15 – election service provider mail the ballots
    - Having an image of the ballot envelope in the Wrap-Up so people know what to look for
  - Forum in late April
  - Election Day May 10<sup>th</sup>
    - Niles notified Community Engagement Committee about proposed date
  - George mentions having a deadline of May 3<sup>rd</sup> for adding someone to the voter roll
    - Peter says there is an issue with what do we do with people who previously lived at that address
    - 5:00 PM on the 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Peter proposes May 23<sup>rd</sup> & vote count on the 26<sup>th</sup>
    - George Motions. (Paul seconds)
    - Vote 5-0
- Electioneering Zone
  - Using the 2019 language on the Electioneering Zone

- Proposal on using the old language relating to the Committee's role in using the voter roll & contact information
  - Using the 2019 language that the Committee utilizes the most recent electronically available qualified voter information to verify resident's names and addresses
  - This would replace language that the Committee develop the voter roll and the chair certify the voter roll before sending it to the election provider
  - No objections
- Voting on the Election Plan (as amended)
  - George moves (Natalie seconds)
  - Vote 5-0

#### 8:49 Legal Advice

- Consensus is to ask the Council for the authority for the Committee (by a majority vote) to work with Ron to get legal advice
- Paul moves (George seconds)
- VOTE 5-0

#### 8:50 Data Storage

- Standing up a DropBox or GoogleDrive for storing our documents in one place
- Proposing George & Leah work together to figure out the approach to figure out an approach & make sure it complies with record keeping requirements

#### 8:53 Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn (Paul). George 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5-0