

Minutes for VMA Election Committee February 12, 2018, 8:00 pm

In attendance: Marty Langelan, Jesse Tampio, Lauren Biel, Susan Post
Council member: Susan Fattig
Village staff: Matt Trollinger

Meeting came to order at 8 pm. The Chair noted the regrettable absence of one member, Diane Everts, but confirmed that the four members in attendance constituted a quorum.

Minutes from last meeting in October 2017 were unanimously approved.

Survey

The committee reviewed the results of the Village survey, including the significant majority of respondents who believed that the 2017 elections were conducted in a fair and open manner. The committee also reviewed those written comments that were submitted in connection with this question including:

- On the issue of candidate “slates,” the chair confirmed that under election law, VMA could not prohibit candidates from running as a slate. However, the Committee considered options for informing candidates that some Village residents had a negative opinion of slates. The view was also expressed that the new rule prohibiting the use of the VMA logo could help alleviate concerns that incumbents running as a slate are suggesting that they are endorsed by the VMA.
- The committee considered ways to promote civility in the election, including through language in the email to prospective candidates. This email could also highlight the key dos/don'ts under the election rules. Lauren agreed to create a first draft of this email for the committee's consideration.
- The committee decided that there were not enough new questions to merit another newsletter Q&A article but that the upcoming newsletter could provide a link to the prior article.
- The committee decided that they could make the survey responses available to any candidate.

Electioneering issues

The committee considered that there is currently no enforcement provision for the election rules, and considered recommending that the Council add to the VMA code a mechanism to impose fines on candidates for rule violations.

The committee discussed the need to broadly encourage VMA residents to run for Council while being very careful not to solicit any specific individual for fear of appearing to provide an official endorsement. The committee agreed that, if asked by potential candidates, all members should use phrases like “go for it,” “we encourage everyone to run,” “if you're interested, you

should run,” or “I think it’s a great idea to run,” rather than saying “I think you’d make a great candidate.”

The Committee asked the Village Manager for assistance in creating a short FAQ on the duties and time commitment of a Board Member in order to inform potential candidates.

The Committee reviewed the conflict-of-interest form and noted a few possible points of confusion, e.g., whether a building permit constitutes a transaction and whether a holiday gift needs to be reported. The Board Member in attendance agreed to raise these questions with the Ethics Committee.

Election Cycle

The committee discussed the following key dates for the 2018 election cycle:

Saturday, Feb 24:	Election season opens.
Tuesday April 10:	Deadline for candidates’ statements and conflict of interest forms.
Thursday May 3:	Candidates Community Forum, 7 pm at the Village Office.
Thursday May 10:	Election Day.

Next meeting tentatively set for 8 pm on Mar 12.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.