

## **VMA Election Committee Meeting**

**February 8, 2022**

Members: Paul Weller; Leah Craft; George McAleese

Village: Andrew Kaunders; Village Manager

7:34: George McAleese calls the meeting to order.

7:36: Resident Comments

Marty Langelan expressed her opinion relating to the format of the Election Committee meetings.

Naomi Neirman expressed a question relating to the Committee considering the comments sent to the Committee by members of the community.

- Andrew Kauders pointed out that the procedural method is for the Council to discuss and consider the comments at this point. He is taking point on consolidating the comments.

Jeffrey Goldberg expressed his opinion that he would like to for the Committee to share the comments shared with the community on the call. He expressed concern relating to the transparency of the Committee.

Paul Weller expressed his position that he would not support a plan that did not reflect the Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> plan.

Tiffany Cissna expressed that she has submitted comments to the Committee and appreciated Andrew's clarification about the process. She expressed her appreciation for the Committee's volunteer work.

Susan Kahn expressed her opinion that she would hope the election process would not be rushed and allow extra time for residents to meet candidates before they get their ballots. She expressed her opinion that we should not have 2 dates for nominations & election materials; having a 30 min grace period; have the Election Committee have ultimate responsibility for the voter roll; schedule the Forum before people get their ballots; send paper instructions & election packets before people get ballots; and ensure that the date of ballots returned to the vendors & date to count ballots is different.

Marty Langelan expressed her concern about the action items are not listed prior to the start of the meetings. She expressed her concern relating to communications and the Election Committee's responsibilities for civic education.

8:04: Resident Comments on 2022 Election Plan – Action Items

- George will put together language on email reminder.

#### 8:07: Discussion of Communications Packet

- Paul expresses his support for education of voters. The packet should be a memo from the Election Committee. Committee should keep the initiative here & stay in charge here.
  - #1: Cover letter – attached is the proposed Election Plan
  - #2: Detailed list of dates & importance of the dates
  - #3: Election Plan
- George expressed that that information & the candidate statements make sense as the packet and would go onto the Election website as well as the packet.
- Niles provided information about the Election Website.
- Need to draft the cover letter & the dates/importance of the dates. Need to draft announcement email. (Leah is announcement email; Paul is doing the dates/importance of the dates; George will do the cover letter).
  - Paul expressed his belief that the Committee needs to keep authority on the process until it goes up to the Council.
- Paul asked if the Council is planning to add members to the Committee.
  - Andrew said the Council is looking to get it back to 5.

#### 8:22 Discussion of Election Plan

- Paul set out his concerns
  - Legal focus of the Committee
  - Put back in the language related to the ballot curing
  - Authority of the Election Committee to distribute candidate statements via multiple means (not just by mail)
  - Drop Box concerns
  - Opportunities to cure envelope errors
  - Put language in that the Election Committee has sole discretion to resolve questions relating to the ballot process
- George provided information relating to curing of candidate nominations (we have a period); ballot curing
- Discussion of communicating with the Village residents via multiple means

- Discussion of drop box – potential for getting a more robust box
  - George pointed out that past practice review has included securing ballots dropped off early

#### 8:40: Communications Calendar

- Paul: We have the authority to recruit members
- Discussion of what to do if insufficient nominees for spots
  - Committee will send out additional messages if that is the case, but will not change the messaging.
- Discussion relating to if the Committee will send a new plan to the Council
  - George: My understanding is that it is now in the Council’s hands.
- Jeffrey Goldberg provided comments.
- Marty Langelan provided resident comment relating to historical practice of the Committee and the Election Plan development, including Council actions.
- Tiffany Cissna provided resident comment pointing out the Charter requirements relating to the Committee activities and the role of the Council.
- Paul motions that we send an updated plan to the Council incorporating the resident comments. The motion fails due to a lack of a second.
- Action items on insufficient nominees.
- George motions that we have increased messaging during the week leading up to the deadline. Leah seconds. Motion passes 3-0.
  - Katie Howard had a resident comment about the tone in the messaging (staying away from comments on hourly commitments).

#### Opening of Nominations Period Actions

- Discussion of standards for candidate statements
- George has the action item to get the materials for the Election website.
  - Some formatting requirements (word count/formatting for constant contact, etc)
  - Agreement is for 800 words.
  - Including the requirements for it will be put into the standard fonts for the website & emails.

- Larry Wasson provided a resident comment relating to the Committee's ability to edit statements, saying the Committee should be able to edit the statements.
- Discussion of past meeting minutes.
- Discussion of MPIA request.
- Discussion of Council call for volunteers.

#### 9:42 Resident Comments

- Larry Wasson provided resident comment expressing his opinion about the Committee's plan and composition.
- Jeffrey Goldberg provided resident comment about the track changes versions of prior election plans that were shared.
- Lynn Welle provided resident comment about 4 issues.
  - 1. Anything that would prevent the Election Committee from being more than 5?
    - Niles: Code only sets a minimum, not a maximum. It's a question for the Council.
  - 2. Cover letter with regard to the nominations and candidate statements. Wouldn't have to generate new cover letter if looking at past years' work for support.
  - 3. Ballot box access & who would have access to that box and under what circumstances – should be a 2 person process with witnesses.
  - 4. Items submitted by the community – would like to see that each of those items is discussed one by one and voted on in the Council meeting.
- Marty Langelan provided resident comment about the tone of the nominations announcements; about best practices for the vendor; about the voter roll.
- Susan Kahn provided resident comment about getting legal counsel on what the Committee can and cannot cure. She also raised concerns relating to changes to prior versions of the election plan and the security of the ballot drop box.
- Larry Wasson provided resident comment relating to security of the ballot box.
- Tiffany Cissna provided resident comment relating to the legislative process of the development of the plan and encouraging people to access the relevant files.
- Andrew Kauders provided comments relating to past history of ballot curing. He also provided comments relating to ballot box security. He repeated a call for civility in the meetings.

- Marty Langelan provided resident comment relating to the security of the ballot box and the history of ballot disqualification.
- Katie Howard provided comment relating to the past nomination announcements.

10:32: Adjournment.

- **George moves to adjourn. Paul seconds. Motion passes 3-0.**