

VMA Elections Committee  
June 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes  
Haile Sofier's house

Meeting came to order at 8:09 pm

In attendance: Jesse Tampio, Lorie Mitchell, Marty Langelan, Haile Soifer and Lauren Biel. Susan Fattig represented the Council.

No resident comments

Approval of minutes

Discussion of Election Day and Lessons Learned

- The committee reviewed the new practices for this year, most of which worked well, such as the improved layout of the tables. However, the committee may consider swapping the placement of the two tables next year.
- The committee will redesign the ballots to make it even clearer that writing in a name counts as a vote.
- The committee will do additional research on the rules for write-in candidates and write-in votes and will otherwise consider ways to improve training on election law.
- The committee will reconsider its procedures so as to allow the "absentee ballot" team to help with the vote-counting. The key principle to maintain the fire-wall is that the absentee-ballot team cannot be present when the envelopes are opened.
- The committee will review ways to improve handing out the ballots and the clipboards. One idea is to just hand out ballots and have a separate stack of clipboards for those who want one. In addition, anyone wishing to submit an absentee ballot in the ballot box needs to have it verified by the absentee-ballot team first.
- The committee will request having the VMA lawyer on-call for future election nights in case there is a need for time-sensitive advice.
- The committee will ask the VMA staff for suggestions on keeping the voter roll as up to date as possible, in terms of both adding new residents and deleting residents who have moved out.
- The committee discussed other improvements to the election day event, including signage.

Discussion of other Election Season Issues

- The committee discussed the use of the private VMA listserv. While not an official channel, it is valuable for informal communication. The committee will further discuss options for helping to ensure that election-related emails to the listserv are posted promptly.
- The committee will review the election packet, including to clearly communicate that results of the election will be announced as soon as possible on Friday.
- The committee will remind candidates of the election rules as soon as they announce their candidacy.
- The committee recommends that it work with the Community Engagement Committee next year with respect to the timing of spring social events.
- The committee will further consider the issue of candidates running as a slate, in light of resident questions but also legal rights.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm