

Dear Community Association Board and Members - I believe the By-laws have far-ranging effects and bear scrutiny and discussion in a very inclusive way. It is my understanding that our current "active membership" is hovering 150-160 members, about 1% of the island population, or less - and we don't know, yet, who the website is reaching. I would urge profound deliberation - for the purpose of understanding the community this organization will serve - and what by-laws make sense, once we know that. I support taking additional time to make sure we are crafting the right by-laws for a truly representative island organization. I would have supported a true community visioning process to precede a re-write of the by-laws governing the organization.

Because the organization needs to continue to function, I do believe we need to go forward with elections in April. The By-laws do not necessarily need to be changed at the same time, unless we feel we have arrived at consensus with the membership. That said, it appears the trajectory to vote on the by-laws is in place - unless a large part of the community requests additional time with rationale.

Here are my specific comments re: current revised (2-12-10) By-laws:

Article II, Sec. 2 - "active membership" should be as inclusive as possible - proof of island residence and or business ownership should suffice for membership and voting purposes - not attendance at meetings - unless we are willing for 1500 plus people to attend meetings - as this would be the actual membership. Voting (which I will address below) should have multiple ways of being accomplished - while verifying membership (electronic ballot, snail mail ballot, etc)

Article II, Sec 4, B & C - voting requirements should be in keeping with notice of a vote - and only long enough to verify residence or business ownership (7 days?) - Any notice of regular or special vote would need to include time for the verification period (would need to far exceed that verification period).

Article III, Sec 2 - 4 consecutive terms (8 years) for a board position is too long - 4-6 years tops.

Article V, Sec 5, Agendas need to be out 7-10 days prior to a meeting so that people can make a choice, based on topics, whether or not to attend. One or two days is far too short of notice.

Article VII, Sec. 4 - Land Use has historically and is currently a polarizing issue on Savvie Island. The role of the land use committee for SICA should be informational and educational in a more "neutral" fashion - as even courts of law are not agreeing about meeting "criteria", etc. Helping people understand the land use process, providing balanced forums for discussions sharing multiple points of view with professional mediation when necessary - IS a suitable role for such a committee. It seems "taking a stance" on a particular land use issue should happen outside of the SICA organization - by groups representing particular viewpoints - using SICA as a resource for information and a forum for balanced dialogue.

Article VIII, Board Qualifications - this section bears discussion. Some boards DO allot spots to represent population groups - eg, farmers, residents, business owners, moorages, representatives from various groups, etc - IF we were going to try to do something like this - we would need to know more information statistically than we now have - and it could be complicated and STILL not actually be representative. It might make more sense to agree that we need greater representation - and go about getting that at a grassroots level - and later re-address this section.

We do need a more representative Board and association than we've had to date - I do not currently have the optimal format to propose, and I'm not sure any ONE of us does - but believe this should be well thought out and discussed by a broader range of people.

Article VIII, Sec. 2 - Board Qualifications would not only be residents but would include the broader active membership - and if we are concerned about having enough "resident" board members - we are back to the discussion of allotments - how many of what type of person are we looking for?

Cindy Reid

Island resident