

communityassociation@sauvieisland.org

date: Tue, Jan 26, 2010 at 9:41 PM

subject: Comment regarding By-laws

Hi Folks - I'm getting ready to go out of town again and wanted to get a few points out re: the by-laws - and may write something more when I return.

I am concerned that the by-laws are very board-centric - even though I understand much of this language is often used. Here are some specific areas that raised red flags:

1. VOTING -It seems that voting by snail mail or e-mail should be permitted, given that we are verifying addresses and membership. People are busy - cannot attend all meetings - and in this day and age - we should be able to easily facilitate voting in absentia. The only reason I can see for not doing so - is to in some way limit input. I hope we are looking for ways to expand input.

2. PREVIOUS PRESIDENT -I believe this is intended - but the past president should not be one of the 9 directors - but in addition and non-voting, correct?

3. AGENDA NOTICE - One day notice on meeting agendas seems too short - agendas should accompany meeting notices (7 days) - to give people the opportunity to plan meeting attendance around areas of concern. Last minute changes can occur at the beginning of the meetings with rapid approval.

4. AGENDA CONTENT- If the Board is going to review member requests for agenda items - I believe they should be obligated to offer a rationale for why any active member's agenda item request is denied or deferred. In addition, any active member or group of members should be allowed to call for a vote of the general membership to override the Board's decision to exclude an agenda item by simple majority. Ultimately, the Board's agenda should be the community's agenda - and I see no checks and balances on the Board- and there need to be some.

5. COMMITTEE PROCESS - There needs to be another step in the appointment of committee heads and membership - again, a way for active members to challenge those recommendations and decisions to the full body of the active membership. There needs to be a way for members and groups of members to challenge and at times override the Board's decisions. This bears discussion.

6. TERM LIMITS FOR DIRECTORS - I would like to see term limits for directors, not to exceed 4 consecutive years of service for any one person. If and when a time comes that no one else wants to serve on the board - this could be revisited. But now, I think we need to encourage new blood, cross-pollination and plenty of service and participation from the community. I strongly recommend term limits not to exceed 4 consecutive years. I would support a person jumping back in after one year out, by election.

If you want this comment in some other form or at some other time, please advise.

Cindy Reid