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Subject: bylaws comments

## **Sauvie Island Active Members Only Association.**

If the name above is what the association represents then we should keep the bylaws as they are proposed. If the association wants to represent the entire community of Sauvie Island then they should allow membership based only on residency and ownership with no limitations or restrictions on membership or voting rights. Unless, we are pretending to be transparent, and we are an exclusive club not an inclusive community organization. We need to remove any and all the restrictions such as Active members, and 30 days to activate memberships, and two years residency. This is more fitting of an organization which is trying to exclude membership. I know that is not the intentions of many members involved in the draft of the bylaw.

**1-Article II Membership:** if you qualify to be a member, you are automatically a member.

### **Section 4 Voting:**

**B** – A member should be able to vote in person, by mail, by a previously registered e-mail, or by properly signed proxy.

What are we afraid of? Why exclude people who want to vote from voting in any verifiable method?

**C**- Unless we are trying to keep members from participating in a process which impacts their lives we need to illuminate this provision completely.

A member should be able to vote without any 30 days notice to anyone. If the association represents everyone on the island then everyone should be able to vote with no time limits, or restrictions, or obstacles.

**D**- Be careful in limiting business entities from voting. A legal entity is independent from its members; the law treats them as such. We can't limit entities from voting if they are limited partnerships or a corporation. A sole proprietor could be limited to an individual vote. We should spend more time clarifying this section so we won't be accused of discrimination. Remember the association supposed to represent businesses too.

**Section 5:** if we redefine membership as discussed above then this section is not needed you can't relinquish membership unless you move off the island. We are not a private club!

**Section 6:** to eliminate a single interest group from dominating the association we need to open all vacancies on the board to the general membership as to introduce a new blood to the association and prevent the private club mentality. All vacancy should be advertised, and voted on by the general membership in an open and transparent forum.

Article VIII elections:

1- A nominating committee to seek nomination from the general membership is a good idea, but should not be a nominating committee to promote a private club membership. Any member should be able to nominate themselves and others to the board.

2- Board qualification: remember we can't limit this position to residence only since we represent businesses too, and some of them are not residents. A time limitation to run for the board should not be more than six month of residency as an individual or a business. We are trying to be inclusive right?

Article XI. Amendments:

We need to provide a 30 days' notice to the general membership before we can vote to amend the bylaw. Any amendment without proper notice and time to allow discussion appears contradictory to transparency and inclusion.

As to the land use committee: we need to be sure that it is more of a neighborhood mediation committee to help all sides come together as neighbors and address everyone interest. This should be a conflict resolution committee between neighbors, not a cause of division among them. I am afraid that some members see this as a way to prevent growth and regulating their neighbors instead of managing growth and create a harmony among neighbors.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Hashem.