

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
November 10, 2016
MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Linda Bradley, N&E Chair

Marcy Rekunyk, N&E-excused

Joline Anzalone, N&E

Marlene Harlan, Master Counter

Tammy Woodin, N&E

Adrienne Pratt, N&E

Lisa Letchworth, Staff N&E liaison

Members in attendance:

James Rorabaugh

Samantha Rorabaugh

3. Adoption of Agenda

Request for Recount was added.

4. Request for Recount

A member emailed the Board (attached) requesting recount.

Committee discussed concerns raised in the request.

Motion:

Tammy Woodin moved all counting volunteers be vetted as members in good standing.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

During discussion the committee agreed to look into a bylaw amendment or add restrictions to N&E manual on counters having a vested interest in the outcome such as employees/employee spouses.

Motion:

Tammy Woodin moved to recount ballots. Motion was seconded.

Motion passed 2 for, 1 against and 1 abstain. Motion was then withdrawn as compromise was reached and it was agreed the committee and master counter will meet Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the MPR to audit ballots instead of a recount to determine if any errors occurred in tabulating the election results.

5. 2016 AGM Certification Meeting

The committee discussed the process and suggestions for improvement of future elections included utilizing a post office box, lock box and bar codes.

6. Next meeting is Sunday, November 13, 2016 in the MPR to audit and certify results of 2016 AGM.

7. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Request



Dana Hardy <dananataliehardy@gmail.com>

Wed 11/9/2016 10:07 PM

To: BOD <BOD@suddenvalley.com>;

Dear Board of Directors,

I would like to ask for a recount of the ballots from our recent election. I volunteered to count ballots because I was told at so many of the board meetings that we were desperate for volunteers. I was very eager to help but was turned down and told that I wouldn't be needed. I later learned that the Managing Directors wife was a ballot counter and so were some folks that are not members of Sudden Valley. It is disconcerting that we would allow the MD's wife to count our ballots and I feel this goes against our best interest as a community. The MD made it abundantly clear that his resignation was riding on this election which should make us all uneasy about his wife being one of the counters.

I would also like to know why non dues paying members were allowed to count ballots? I am a dues paying member of this community so why were they chosen over me?

I just want to be sure that this election was won fairly and I would also like our community to have assurance that this election is valid since there were so many important issues being voted on.

Thank you so much for your consideration on this matter and please let me know what further steps I need to take to enact a recount.

Sincerely,

Dana Hardy

3 Rocky Ridge Dr

Bellingham, WA, 98229

N&E Committee Review Report

Date: 11/10/16

Member Board Request for AGM Recount

A member recently requested a recount of the 2016 AGM election. The basis for the request was based on several statements.

1. One being that she was eager to help but was turned down and told she was not needed. I am submitting the following email from the Master Counter and the member regarding using her as a counter (see attached). If you read the email thread the Master Counter indeed intended to accept the member's offer to count. When the Reminder notice went out the member responded to the Master Counter that she was unavailable to count on Friday, but could help on Saturday. Normally returning counters for Saturday are selected, whenever possible, from the pairs that count on Friday. Fewer pairs are needed for Saturday therefore you will see that the Master Counter replied there would be enough help for Saturday, but would let her know if she needed her. The member's name was on the initial list of potential counters for the 2016 AGM (see attached).
2. A second statement was in regard to the MD's wife counting ballots. During a discussion of the N&E I learned that she had counted ballots in the past for the 2015 AGM. I am providing the Bylaws language that deals with counters. There is nothing in the Bylaws that disallows her counting. **Article III Section 3 (g)** *No candidate for election to the Board, the Nominations and Elections Committee, or the Architectural Control Committee, nor members of their families or their households, shall assist in counting ballots. Clearly this section does not prohibit her counting ballots.*
3. Thirdly, there is a reference made that non-dues paying members were allowed to count. I have submitted a list of the counters that I have vetted against a master owners list that indicates each one of the members that assisted with counting were owners. I'm not certain where the comment she made originated, but a review of the counting members show this was not the case. If the Board would like Staff to do any additional vetting of the counters I welcome any double checking of my findings. The Master Counter indicated that there has never been any Bylaw or rule that disallows non-owner counters and I would suggest the Board also reference the attorney's response to this.

At a later date the N&E Committee would like to bring the discussion forward regarding changes to the Bylaws or N&E Manual that could remedy the concerns stated in numbers two and three. However, currently there is no constraint stated in either the Bylaws or N&E Manual that were violated in regards to the 2016 AGM or affected the counting of the election. It isn't clear that the concerns would warrant a recount, however during certification the committee plans on performing a sampling audit of ballots to ensure accuracy as well as a double check of tally sheet totals.

Fw: Counter Volunteers

Linda Bradley

Thu 11/10/2016 10:36 AM

To: Tammy Woodin <tammywoodin@comcast.net>; Joline Anzalone <kanzalone@msn.com>;

Please see the attached email chain regarding the post that Dana Hardy made on FB. She was on Marlene's list of counters but you can see Marlene's response to me and a conversation we had on Friday.

Linda

From: Linda Bradley

Sent: Tuesday, November 8, 2016 9:08 AM

To: Marlene; Leslie McRoberts

Subject: Re: Counter Volunteers

Good Morning Marlene,

Thanks for confirming what I had thought our discussion had been regarding Dana. I have to agree that it is unfortunate that she posted what she did when in essence was a half truth. I responded about Linda Waterman and indicated exactly what you did about the outlines for eligible counters and what is written in the Bylaws. I also addressed the fact about husband and wives who count that can but are not partnered. I agree that the process itself checks/balances provides protection for the ballots. Perhaps we could have the discussion about volunteer counters since all other volunteers for committees are members. Perhaps if our counter pool is getting small its time to proactively seek members early to make up a new list and let people know the time commitments involved and just get a fresh group. I'd love to get your take on this.

I wrote a small article that should make it into the Views (we'll see) thanking you and your crew of counters. Every year I go through this process it amazes me how well it works. I was glad we had one member ask to see her ballot envelope.....only goes to show yes we keep track of things.

I hope some of these folks take advantage of the opportunity to come and see the certification process and can ask questions at the end of the meeting if they need to. Again thanks for all your help and also confirming what I thought you had told me about a Dana.

See you Thursday, Linda.

From: Marlene <mkharlan@msn.com>

Sent: Monday, November 7, 2016 10:30:48 PM

To: Linda Bradley; Leslie McRoberts

Subject: Re: Counter Volunteers

Hi Linda - Yes Dana Hardy emailed me Thursday evening to let me know she was unable to work on Friday as she has a job. At the time I responded, I told her I did not need her on Saturday. I did not have her phone number, so I couldn't call her on Saturday, but as you know it all worked out.

I don't know if any of the volunteers were renters; it is not a question I ask when I recruit for help. It is also not a requirement to volunteer to count, so not sure what the issue is. As far as the GM's wife volunteering to count; there is nothing that says she/he can't. The checks and balances we have in place for the counting process protects all involved. I hope you will convey to this person what happens in the counting room and your own personal opinion about the integrity of the process.

It irritates me that people like Dana would lash out with comments as noted below without the decency of an email or phone call to get more information. I had a difficult time getting volunteers this election cycle, so I reached out to those I know and to those that have volunteered in the past.

I have copied Leslie, as she also noted the FB comment so she is aware of my response.

Thanks. marlene

From: Linda Bradley <BODBradley@suddenvalley.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2016 11:36 AM
To: mkharlan@msn.com
Subject: Counter Volunteers

Marlene,

The following was posted on Facebook by Dana Hardy. Didn't you tell me that she emailed you that she had to work Friday? Also were any of the volunteers renters? I knew most of them but not all.

I just would like a follow up on this from you.

Thanks

Linda

"So I have to post here about something that has been bugging the life out of me since the election...I have heard rumors that renters and even the GM's wife were allowed to help count ballots which is rather troubling after I volunteered to help count but was turned down and told I wasn't needed! Last I heard they were desperate for volunteers to count the ballots? Also isn't it a conflict of interest to have the GM's wife and renters counting the ballots????"

Fwd: Sudden Valley Election Volunteer - Reminder

Marlene <mkharlan@msn.com>

Thu 11/10/2016 1:59 PM

Inbox

To:Linda Bradley <BODBradley@suddenvalley.com>;

Here's the email communication I had with Dana.

She also did not attend the training session I had on Saturday, two weeks before the election.

Marlene

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marlene <mkharlan@msn.com>
Date: November 2, 2016 at 6:39:30 PM PDT
To: dananataliehardy <dananataliehardy@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Sudden Valley Election Volunteer - Reminder

Thanks for letting me know. We will probably have enough help for Saturday, but I will let you know if we need you. Thanks. marlene

From: dananataliehardy <dananataliehardy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 6:27 PM
To: Marlene
Subject: Re: Sudden Valley Election Volunteer - Reminder

Hello Marlene,
I cannot attend the the Friday counting but I can help Saturday if there are still ballots left. I have a 9-5 job during the week which limits me from helping during that time. Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 2, 2016, at 4:58 PM, Marlene <mkharlan@msn.com> wrote:

Thanks again for volunteering to assist with the upcoming Sudden Valley election. Just a reminder of the following schedule for Friday and Saturday.

Saturday, November 5 - Approximate time: 10 am - 3 pm; actual time to be determined based on Friday count. Multipurpose Room in the Community Center

Light refreshments will be served on Friday with lunch provided on Saturday. Please arrive a few minutes early each day to get settled in so we can start promptly.

Counting area reminders:

- All personal items will be stored in a secured closet away from the ballot counting area
- Cellphones should be turned off or at a minimum on vibrate
- Coats/purses must be stored away from the counting area
- Keep voice level down
- Please keep political views to yourself in the counting area

Thanks. Marlene

Marlene Harlan

Phone: 360-647-8102

Email: mkharlan@msn.com

Sudden Valley Election Volunteers - Election 2016 - November 5, 2016							
Linda Bradley, N&E Chair							
N&E Members: Tammy Woodin, Jolene Anzalone, Cheryl Taylor, Marcie Rekunyak							
Counting Teams							
			Email address	Friday	Saturday		
756-6029	Audrey	Schwartz	audreyschw@comcast.net	y	y		32-066
	Theresa	Allen	theallen@earthlink.net	y	n		10-136/138
	Carol	Brossard	carolbrossard47@gmail.com	y	n		24-062
	Ruth	Bullock	bullockruth@hotmail.com	y	y		14-030
	Marian	D'Onofrio	mdonofrio5150@comcast.net	y	n		52-003
714-8139	Ruth	Evans	evansrj1@cs.com	y	y		10-052
676-9257	Marie	Falen	healy.falen@gmail.com	y	y		36-005
	Monte	Falen	montefalen@yahoo.com	y	y		36-005
647-7807	Susie	Harber	suznvc@comcast.net	y	y		22-250
306-1800	Mary	Haslam	maryhas51@comcast.net	y	n		24-093
	Fred	Haslam	haslams10@comcast.net	y	?	New	24-093
671-6364	Elizabeth	Huthert	eahuthert@comcast.net	y	n		14-037
	Donn	Jamtaas	lishdonn@hotmail.com	y	y		02-188
	Jo Jean	Kos	jojeank@msn.com	y	n		32-031
656-6222	Chuck	Luttrell	chucklutt@comcast.net	y	y		32-049
	DanaNatalie	Hardy	dananataliehardy@gmail.com	y	?	New	02-029
756-6029	Andy	Schwartz	schwandrew@comcast.net	y	y		32-066
527-8496	Coleen	Thompson	a30yrdrm@hotmail.com	y	y		22-058
	Barbara	Volkov	barbara.d.volkov@gmail.com	y	y		34-027
	Linda	Waterman	lwaterman@sbcglobal.net	y	y		07-103
	Lish	Jamataas	replaced an ill counter who was unable count	n	y		02-188