

## NOMINATION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

February 27, 2023

Via Remote

Unapproved MINUTES (Further Revised 10:21PM 2-27-2023)

Chair Michael Wadsworth (MW) called the meeting to order at 6:37PM. Members present: Michael Wadsworth, Chair; Gail Chiarello (GC), Secretary; Laurie Sousa Robinson (LR), Karen Borchert (KB), Rob Gibbs (RB). Property Owners: None were present. Staff present: Morgan Libby.

GC moved to amend the agenda adding an item under New Business: Chair Pro Tem. KB seconded. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

GC moved to approve the 12-07-2022 Minutes and MW seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Opening Comments from the Chair: Meetings will be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order. When in Zoom meetings, members will raise their hands if they wish to speak. Meetings will be held to 60-90 minutes to respect the time of the members.

(1) Chair Pro Tem. MW has been offered an opportunity to set up his food court for the Elizabeth Park Concerts in Bellingham every other Thursday from June-September. He will not be available to attend Board meetings during this time. He and GC have discussed GC's standing in as Chair Pro Tem during this period to attend BoD meetings and maintain communication with the Board; MW would return as Chair when the Elizabeth Park Concerts ended. MW has initiated communication with the Board President on this matter. It was the consensus of the N&E Committee to put this matter (voting for a Chair and Secretary ProTem) to a vote of the N&E Committee at its next meeting.

(2) Update re Board decision on AGM and Unilect (MW). The General Manager has been negotiating with Unilect re the terms and dates to run the 2023 AGM meeting. There have been small adjustments to the dates and deadlines MW and GC had discussed informally with Unilect in January. Unilect has moved the deadline to September 15th for receipt of the final materials for the ballots and set a September 27th date for mailing out the ballots to Sudden Valley members. Unilect has provided the GM with large calendars spelling out all the drop-dead deadlines and MW will arrange to have copies made for all the N&E members.

(3) Review timeline for 2023 AGM. The revised calendar allows Unilect to collect all ballots received by 10AM the Thursday before the AGM. KB pointed out that Sudden Valley's Bylaws state that all ballots will be counted if received before 4:30PM the Friday before the AGM. Discussion followed. One option would be for the Unilect Administrative Assistant to overnight to Sudden Valley any ballots which arrived on Friday. These would then arrive Saturday AM and could be counted. KB also pointed out the results announced at the AGM were uncertified results, and certification occurred a few days following. [GC check—according to bylaws, who can open the ballots? If Unilect admin asst notified N&E she had collected only a few ballots, not enough to change the election results, N&E and Board re-organization could then proceed at the AGM.]

(4). Changes to the N&E Manual for 2023:

(a) Discussion of the role of N&E members who run for the Board or ACC. Review of SV Bylaws Article 4, Section 3-k./or is it Bylaws Article 3 Section 3-g. NOTE: “Someone needs to look this up.” KB volunteered to take this. [GC check]

(b) Discussion of untimely withdrawal of candidates. GC presented a draft addition to the N&E Manual (attached). Discussion of the need to add a second addition to the N&E manual clarifying how votes for a withdrawn candidate would be handled. Suggestion that they be disregarded and the candidate with the next number of votes would be selected. MW stated he understood that an opinion by SV’s attorney indicated that SV should follow the procedures used by municipal and state governments when a candidate became unable to serve but had not viewed this opinion personally. KB urged him to request the opinion from the GM since as a Director he had a right to view [GC get language from statement re rights of BOD Directors). Rob Gibbs volunteered to research these precedents in terms of HOA best practices. GC volunteered to draft the second amendment.

(c) Reset final withdraw date. Currently the candidates have 2 days to withdraw after the N&E lottery (usually held the early evening of the candidate application deadline). In the past the candidates were allowed 4 days to withdraw. Recommendation postponed until next meeting.

(d) Avoiding late-arriving ballots. MW mentioned that GC had recommended some language to be printed on the security envelope, the outer envelope, the election booklet, and elsewhere. [NOTE GC to locate that language] MW asked for suggestions from others in the group.

Motion to Adjourn: GC suggested an interim meeting before the next regularly scheduled meeting, on March 27th, to allow presenting recommended changes to the N&E Manual as early as possible. The process may involve a referral to Document Review and back to the Board, and all changes need to be approved before June 23rd in order to send updated Candidate Application Packets to members expressing their intent to run for office. March 13th and/or March 20 were suggested. Either would allow a presentation at the Board’s March 23rd meeting. MW will check with the GM re the feasibility of an earlier meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM.