

Creciente Election Committee Meeting

February 6, 2018

South Building Social Room, 10:30 a.m.

A quorum being present, the meeting called to order at 10:30 by Chair John Grier.

Members present: John Grier, Cheryl Thompson, Sally Hadden, Becky Werner, Donna Schneider, Alex Whitenack, Wes Nails, John Mastic, Wilda Gastelu.

(Absent: Gail Crane, Carol Kucharek, Fran Grier, Kathy Luce)

Alex Whitenack suggested and it was agreed that the committee would focus on the 3 main parts separately: the first letter (60 days in advance of the annual meeting so the deadline would be November 8, 2018), the second letter (30 days in advance) and the tally of proxies and election ballots at the annual meeting.

One problem mentioned regarding the first letter was that it was sent to the out-of-state address of record while the owners were in residence here. In 2016 many letters were left at the door of those thought to be in residence here. In 2017 all letters were mailed. A consensus was reached to make one date and time available for owners to pick up their letter (first or second) in the social room. A committee member (not Board member or candidate or spouse of either) would be present and the owner would sign for their letter. All others would be mailed the next day or so. A newsletter blast would explain this process. Notices would be posted in each building regarding the date, time and place to pick up and sign for the letter. It was agreed that the permanent address on file would not be changed only for these letters. Additionally, both notices/letters would be posted on the bulletin boards in each building.

The committee requested that Cheryl Thompson, Board President, ask the Board to set the date of the 2019 annual meeting for Monday, January 7, 2019, at 7 p.m.

If was felt strongly that only election committee members and their spouses who are not on the Board and not a candidate should be handling any election material.

The first letter contains the First Notice of the Annual Meeting, the agenda and minutes of the previous annual meeting, and the information about applying to be a candidate for the Board. There are specific dates to get the candidate application/registration in to the office and a second deadline to get the candidate bio in.

The committee requests that all envelopes that are sealed from the office be self-sealing and that the first notice/letter be in an 8 X 11 envelope when the mailing is large. It may be advisable to do the same with the second notice/letter

The second letter or notice of the annual meeting must be mailed or delivered (picked up and signed for) no more than 34 days and no less than 14 days before the annual meeting. The Committee will strive for a 30-day period. There would also be a date and time specified for owners in residence to pick up and sign for the second letter/notice.

The second notice/letter contains:

- Printed ballot – different color of paper
- White, # 10 envelope for returning the ballot – stamped **BALLOT**
- Candidate bio (CV) sheets from candidates
- Proxy
- White, # 10 envelope for returning proxy stamped **PROXY**
- White, # 11 envelope with designated lines for owner signature and unit number – this envelope will contain the ballot and proxy envelopes and will be labeled and stamped for return to Creciente
- Whatever else is legally required
- 3 stamps should be ordered: **BALLOT**, **PROXY**, and **DUPLICATE**

The proxy was confusing to many and should be investigated as to what is required by the owner in filling it out. Also, using red print on the notice/letter designating where the owner must sign helped greatly in 2016. A newsletter article should explain the process as should an enclosure in the second notice/letter. We need the proxy to fulfill the quorum requirement but do we need the “Limited Proxy” for other business that comes up at the meeting? This issue needs more study.

A process for issuing a duplicate proxy and ballot must be determined; it should not be a different color as that could assign ownership to a ballot. An owner may change their proxy before the meeting is gavelled to order. The ballot may not be changed.

It was decided that additional meetings would be held to work out details of the first and second notice/letter.

A separate sub-committee will be named to work out the tallying and inspection process. Alex Whitenack nominated Sally Hadden to chair the subcommittee and Becky Werner seconded the nomination. Sally Hadden was unanimously accepted, appointed and applauded.

Sally Hadden mentioned 2 concerns that she heard from a number of owners: 1) owners wanted to put their proxy/ballot into the ballot box and 2) many owners objected to the negative letters and wanted them to stop. These letters are free speech and Creciente has no control over what an owner wants to say or write. The names and addresses are public record on the Lee Co. Appraisers website.

The committee objected to having the Creciente office making/printing non election committee business labels for owners due to the time and cost to the association. Chair Grier will ask the Document Committee Chair, Les Remington to put that before the document committee and then to the board.

The ballot box process, will be determined by the subcommittee for tallying and inspecting. That process and the concern about negative mailings about candidates should be noted in a newsletter article in October or November.

The next Election Committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 10, at 10 a.m. in the Social Room.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted by Becky Werner