

To: Ann Mueller <ann.mueller@sbcglobal.net>  
From: Dag Forssell <mc@forssell.com>  
Subject: Re: Workshop????  
Cc: Shirley Clayton <shirleyclayton2@gmail.com>, Linda Meier <linda.meier@sbcglobal.net>, Josephine Dorval <jsdorval@yahoo.com>, Nichole Dillon-Lee <ndillonlee@manorinc.com>, John Loughlin <johnploughlin79@gmail.com>  
Bcc:  
Attached:

Ann,

Your thoughtful reply is much appreciated.

I still think that the current board meetings are a poor substitute for the informality, casual conversation and unhurried pace of the workshops I remember while considering aspects of a problem and possible courses of action.

I think you overstate your case when you say

I'm sure you have noticed that people are speaking up freely on the topic of each slide and there is a lot of back-and-forth dialogue between residents during these exchanges. It is during these exchanges that residents can discuss ideas with the board and with each other. I believe this is a healthy way to have participation by residents interested in a particular topic and to heard other thoughts about an idea.

The other board members don't say much. Not much discussion the way I remember in workshops. Board meetings are held on a tight one hour schedule, rushing through all the agenda items.

For your statement to hold true, you need to expand board meetings from the tight one hour schedule to at least two hours.

I will grant you that slides presented are very good, a clear improvement on board meetings past, but no substitute for time and discussion.

Best, Dag

At 01:47 PM 3/15/2023, Ann Mueller wrote:

Hi Dag,

Thank you for your thoughts on the need to hear from all owners and residents. However, your comments on the "secrecy" of our current board miss what is actually happening at our board meetings.

As you know, every resident who attends a board meeting has an

opportunity to talk at the beginning and end of each meeting. They can talk for as long as they wish because we have not enforced the 2 minutes rule. HOA Board meeting only need to happen once a month.

We now have power point slides to make the meeting topics and discussions more focused.

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Furthermore, the slides provide much more context and information and in more detail than the minutes. The Board often refers to the information on these slides to measure progress (e.g water use by month) to report progress on certain agenda items. The slides enhance the Board meetings and go much deeper into topics that a purely verbal session.

Certain matters are discussed in Board sub-committees. One recent example is we changed our policy from letting Manor's Bank hold all our reserve funds. At the monthly Board meeting, Linda reported that in conjunction with discussions and recommendations from the Finance Committee, we took funds from an ICS account, where the interest rate was very low: 0.01%, opened a Chase Bank account so that we can invest directly in US Treasury bills. As you know, 3- or 6-month Treasury bills are paying around 4.9% right now. Given the recent news about Silicon Valley Bank, and a financial evaluation (done by an independent third party concerning the longevity of Pacific Premier Bank, the bank that Manor held a substantial amount of Menlo Commons uninsured reserve funds), our action has turned out to be a good decision for both safeguarding our principle and for earning extra dollars in interest.

At a Board meeting, residents complained about the condition of the window boxes. Several residents volunteered to work with Shirley to identify the issues and rectify them.

Only under certain circumstances that come up infrequently, when a resident brings up a topic that has been talked about many times and the opinion is already known, does it become necessary to limit the discussion. Even under those circumstances, the Board takes the topic seriously, takes appropriate action and will report back to our residents at the appropriate time.

The open nature of the board meetings and the unrestricted discussions by the residents are better ways of exchanging ideas than having yet another meeting. Most of our residents are active and busy people and I think they appreciate the fact that they can be heard at a single meeting.

The only executive session we held was the one where Val's annual

compensation and bonus was discussed and determined. The amounts along with a brief performance evaluation was then forwarded to Manor.

/Ann

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2023 11:17:21 -0700  
To: Ann Mueller <ann.mueller@sbcglobal.net>, Shirley Clayton <shirleyclayton2@gmail.com>, Linda Meier <linda.meier@sbcglobal.net>, Josephine Dorval <jsdorval@yahoo.com>  
From: Dag Forssell <mc@forssell.com>  
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Friends,

When I was on the board in the Loughlin administration, we held workshops every month.

This to provide legally mandated transparency of board deliberations as well as opportunities for residents to get to know the board (perhaps to join the board in the future), ask questions and make contributions. This facilitates communication and involvement with the community.

This worked for Christine and I when we moved to Hayward in 2022, joining the Skyview HOA with 150 homes. Our seller recommended attending board meetings to get to know your neighbors. Those meetings were long, with plenty of participation by residents, so basically MC board meetings and workshops combined.

I ended up contributing and serving on the board for 13 years in various capacities.

I also attended workshops as a new resident here at MC and found ways to make contributions.

It bothers me that the Mueller administration appears to prefer secrecy, having cancelled all 2022 workshops except one (April).

Workshops are now listed as "as needed", dispensing with the need to cancel, which of course draws attention to the board's reluctance to engage with the community. Thus we have not had any workshops so far in 2023 either.

You would think that the board has plenty to discuss.

Does the board ever meet to discuss things?

Does the board need to discuss things?

Is everything classified under the umbrella of Executive session?

How about announcing that we will have a workshop tomorrow, Wednesday, so residents can meet the board, listen in, get acquainted, get involved, contribute, consider joining the board next election?

Best, Dag