

Special Committee on Review of Election Policies and Procedures

Meeting Chat, November 22, 2021

19:12:25 From Jeremy Dommu : The agenda lists 3 minutes per speaker at the beginning

19:20:14 From Iris Mars : I agree, Rhona.

19:22:46 From Jeremy Dommu : I didn't have time to connect my thought before my time expired - but the point I was making was I am concerned that those opposed to the village center redevelopment will attempt to use this committee to consolidate power to exclude voices that have alternative views and create barriers for participation in our democratic process

19:22:59 From Iris Mars : Jeremy, we got that.

19:24:06 From Concerned Citizen : good points Jeremy

19:24:18 From Iris Mars : Articles have the non-resident membership — wouldn't they need to be modified?

19:25:07 From Iris Mars : I think the purpose was to create the association and get it incorporated prior to residents moving in - Jim Rouse is a signer and did not live in HRV.

19:27:35 From Iris Mars : Rhona, I agree with our point on consistency.

19:28:16 From Skye Anderson : Would that have to be an open meeting?

19:28:17 From Concerned Citizen : any committee meeting should be sunshined? not?

19:28:27 From Concerned Citizen : no camping out?

19:28:30 From Iris Mars : Yes, it would have to be an open meeting.

19:28:52 From Concerned Citizen : thank you Laura

19:29:02 From Allison Sultan : Thank you Laura!

19:29:26 From Concerned Citizen : announced...thank you Laura

19:29:45 From Allison Sultan : it was clearly just stated that 4 members of the board met privately to discuss committee matters.

19:29:49 From Jeremy Dommu : wouldn't the hawthorn center be a better forum for such a meeting so residents can be invited too?

19:30:19 From Concerned Citizen : good point Allison

19:30:39 From Concerned Citizen : was this meeting in violation?

19:31:01 From Skye Anderson : Tonight's meeting is not in violation.

19:31:29 From Concerned Citizen : the meeting of 4 people referenced by the chair is open to question

19:32:11 From Jeremy Domm : Skye - If I heard it correctly, I think they admitted that 4 people have previously met in person

19:32:34 From Concerned Citizen : I heard that as well

19:32:34 From Iris Mars : Who were the four people that met in person?

19:32:45 From Skye Anderson : Yes, but they now know it will not happen again.

19:32:59 From Concerned Citizen : regardless...it was in violation

19:33:31 From Allison Sultan : doug, Marc, Rhona, and someone else.

19:33:42 From Concerned Citizen : Bill? duh?

19:34:08 From Rhona : To be clear, the committee members never met in person. Only by telephone chat.

19:34:38 From Concerned Citizen : well...that's interesting

19:34:59 From Skye Anderson : We need to find out if that makes a difference. I don't think it does but Laura might know.

19:35:35 From Iris Mars : Zoom-bombing. Link is public. Not the same thing.

19:35:44 From Skye Anderson : I believe that has been fixed, Doug.

19:36:19 From Concerned Citizen : Doug...Doug...call the question...please speak to the item

19:37:24 From Rhona : The members who were assigned the review questions chatted so we could present our reports. No violations. We never had 4 of us chatting. Accusations not appreciated or warranted!

19:37:36 From Skye Anderson : Other villages require anyone who wants to view the board meeting to send an email to the VM to get the link.

19:38:38 From Concerned Citizen : Thank you Jim

19:39:25 From Skye Anderson : Rhona, thanks for the clarification.

19:39:26 From John Boyle (he/him) : Thank you for that framing of the issue, Jim.

19:40:13 From Concerned Citizen : Doug is not an expert

19:40:38 From Concerned Citizen : 1 decade

19:40:41 From Concerned Citizen : 10 years

19:42:48 From Iris Mars : Official annual meeting.

19:42:50 From Concerned Citizen : how many elections in Hickory Ridge have you participated in?

19:43:26 From Iris Mars : I voted online, and can vote by paper ballot. It's no big deal.

19:43:27 From Concerned Citizen : can you say flea market or shredding event?

19:43:43 From Concerned Citizen : these things were definitely tried over the years

19:45:42 From Iris Mars : [https://www.columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Item\\_06a\\_4\\_Special-Board-Ethics-and-Conflicts-Requirements.pdf](https://www.columbiaassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Item_06a_4_Special-Board-Ethics-and-Conflicts-Requirements.pdf)

19:53:29 From Concerned Citizen : nicely said Iris

19:53:57 From Alan Schwartz : There are many possible conflicts between the two entities (budgets, land use, open space use) and as a legal matter anyone who serves on both could create breach of fiduciary duty concerns.

19:54:15 From Concerned Citizen : this is not germane

19:54:23 From Concerned Citizen : germane

19:54:48 From Joan Lancos : Village BOARD

19:54:55 From Hickory Ridge : Yes, Mr. Schwartz. That is why CA would not allow someone to serve on a Village Board and the CA Board of Directors at the same time.

19:56:34 From Alan Schwartz : Yes and that is why the CA rep is a non voting member on the VB.

19:56:42 From Jeremy Dommu : i agree with most of the points made by iris, jim, alan and others that it would be difficult for a person to be on both the village board and CA board and that should not be allowed. But, I think people should be allowed to run for both positions - if a person who wishes to volunteer in our community and doesn't have preference, they should be able to run for both and if elected to both, decide which position they want

19:57:41 From Jeremy Dommu : i can imagine a situation where somebody wants to volunteer on Columbia Council, but if don't win, they would still like to volunteer on their villages board

19:58:39 From Iris Mars : One vote per lot, and then have the lot owner send a letter for the lessee that the lessee is authorized to vote on the lot owner's behalf?

19:59:45 From Concerned Citizen : these recommendations should be put forth in writing - hope these will be sent out prior to the next meeting

20:00:43 From Hickory Ridge : If a property is rented, the owner gets one vote and the tenant gets one vote.

20:01:04 From Bish : Is there any guidance addressing the influence institutional owners are allowed or not allowed to exert on tenants/renters to place their vote/allegiance on an issue?

20:01:06 From Concerned Citizen : Are you sure about that?

20:01:28 From John Boyle (he/him) : Rhona - can you rewind and restate re: the issue of renters and their ability to vote? I don't understand what is being said.

20:01:48 From Iris Mars : What is the participation rate in the current apartment dwellers in Hickory Ridge?

20:01:59 From Allison Sultan : just to be clear, the purpose of this committee is not to disenfranchise potential future residents.

20:02:18 From Iris Mars : No: there is one vote per UNIT.

20:03:00 From John Boyle (he/him) : Iris - that was my understanding.

20:04:34 From Concerned Citizen : interesting..

20:05:08 From Concerned Citizen : 50% of membership, including tenants?

20:05:35 From Iris Mars : It is difficult to amend the Articles, but Oakland Mills did it in 2017.

20:05:44 From John Boyle (he/him) : Allison - thanks: I was wondering.

20:06:07 From Hickory Ridge : Different Villages have different requirements to change the Articles.

20:06:10 From Bish : Do we have a system that ensure that only one tenant votes per unit or is the recognition of multiple tenant votes per unit adjudicated by individual election officials?

20:07:06 From Bish : 👍

20:07:46 From Iris Mars : It's not just Kimco, it's about any undeveloped parcel within HRV's boundaries that could be redeveloped to provide multifamily housing.

20:08:27 From Hickory Ridge : Bish, we have a list of properties, and when a vote is received for that property, it is marked down. We do not accept multiple votes for properties.

20:08:35 From Bish : 🙏

20:08:49 From Bish : Thanks!

20:09:17 From Iris Mars : Do we have data on past expenditures so we have an idea of what to limit?

20:09:47 From Skye Anderson : Not to my knowledge

20:09:54 From Hickory Ridge : No. I have nothing.

20:09:58 From Concerned Citizen : heresay

20:11:17 From Skye Anderson : What do other villages do on this point?

20:11:59 From Hickory Ridge : None of the other Villages address campaign finance disclosure.

20:12:04 From Skye Anderson : Where was that, Bill?

20:12:34 From Concerned Citizen : how does the Chair make these these ascertions without proof

20:12:35 From Concerned Citizen : ?

20:13:09 From Concerned Citizen : it would be nice to have proof

20:13:15 From Allison Sultan : this chair and the village board chair make these accusations publicly regularly.

20:13:41 From Concerned Citizen : yes...I've followed it...and it seems rampant

20:14:46 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : when you say "we," who else are you speaking on behalf of?

20:15:49 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : I find it concerning that the issue of election rules is being conflated with the Kimco issue. These should be completely separate issues.

20:16:31 From Concerned Citizen : This is not germane to this discussion...

20:16:41 From Concerned Citizen : real estate professors included?

20:16:45 From John Boyle (he/him) : Michelle - agreed 100%.

20:17:03 From Concerned Citizen : MIHU

20:17:08 From Concerned Citizen : right Iris

20:17:13 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Today you may feel your actions "hurt" Kimco and the ends justify the means, but tomorrow you may find that the changes you are advocating for actually end up coming back to bite you.

20:17:52 From Concerned Citizen : innuendo?

20:17:56 From Concerned Citizen : proof?

20:18:57 From Concerned Citizen : is this a real scenario or is this someone juggling?

20:19:42 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Ulterior motives like, for example, someone with ties to a mediation company depleting village funds by insisting on the use of a mediation group with which they may have ties?

20:20:39 From Iris Mars : Which mediation group are you referring to? There is a different mediator than the original one the board chair had ties to.

20:20:48 From Concerned Citizen : howard community college?

20:20:54 From Bish : Bill, I share your concerns with corporate \$ in these local elections, but who decides "ulterior" vs "pure"? Also, there's no real mechanism to control non-donation monetary influence. They can operate the same way super PACs do and do their own campaigning and advertising.

20:20:56 From Concerned Citizen : paid faculty or adjunct?

20:21:03 From Concerned Citizen : sure...

20:21:29 From Skye Anderson : Having been one, adjunct faculty are paid.

20:21:42 From Concerned Citizen : You have a paycheck from HCC...gonna vote for them to expand parking?

20:21:47 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : I was just asking for clarification. Hypothetically.

20:21:57 From Allison Sultan : again, the purpose of this committee is not to stick it to any one corporation because you have it in for them. if this meeting were a drinking game and "kimco" was the word of the day I'd be passed out now.

20:22:47 From Concerned Citizen : LOL

20:22:54 From John Boyle (he/him) : All - I'm flabbergasted. This fixation on corporate influence is like nothing I've ever seen before.

20:22:57 From Gretchen : I don't understand why there's such a focus on campaign finance. Did something happen in the past that was untoward?

20:22:58 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Allison, I think what you mean is what the purpose should be. clearly, what it is appears to be all about one developer in particular.

20:23:25 From Skye Anderson : Gretchen, no.

20:23:55 From Gretchen : Skye, thanks

20:24:11 From Iris Mars : Gretchen, there was an odd flyer that went around prior to the CA and village elections that seemed to be funded by some corporate interest and people are concerned.

20:24:47 From Concerned Citizen : all these recommendation should be publicly reviewed

20:24:56 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : I'm more concerned about someone who is not a member of the association serving on the board, much less as chair, then handpicking committee members, ostensibly for the purpose of ensuring their future control as well.

20:25:46 From Iris Mars : Can the candidate sign a statement that attests that they read the documents when they submit their application for candidacy?

20:25:55 From Gretchen : Thanks, Iris.

20:26:06 From Concerned Citizen : you mean a river hill village person running our VB? Zounds!!

20:26:48 From Iris Mars : Or, as I mentioned at the last meeting, someone living in Florida....

20:26:53 From Concerned Citizen : sorry Clarksville resident chairing the HR VB...mis-stated previously

20:27:29 From Concerned Citizen : very good point Iris

20:27:44 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : How many on this committee would advocate for a non US citizen to serve as POTUS?

20:28:23 From Concerned Citizen : I could state something but am demurring

20:28:47 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Who will be enforcing the \$250 spending limit? How will it work? How does a person accused of spending \$251 prove a negative?

20:29:22 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Is the burden of proof in the accuser? Village manager? Election committee chair - another volunteer position.

20:29:33 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : \*on the accuser

20:29:37 From Iris Mars : Better to report large donations over a threshold and not worry about a limit. Their grandma gives them \$1000, report that grandma gave them it....

20:29:38 From Concerned Citizen : good questions

20:30:11 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Agree Iris

20:30:24 From John Boyle (he/him) : Michelle - my question(s) exactly. This feels like a Rube Goldberg machine in the making.

20:30:33 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Let the voters decide if they are concerned about that when they vote.

20:30:37 From Concerned Citizen : John...nail on the head

20:32:34 From Iris Mars : Put everything in the book: documents, "unwritten rules", legal opinions, guidance for candidates, procedures for counting ballots, etc.

20:34:44 From Iris Mars : Can have a checklist above the signature line that lists all the things the candidate read.

20:35:08 From Concerned Citizen : IRS?

20:36:22 From Concerned Citizen : of course

20:36:52 From Iris Mars : If a person has a conflict of interest or interest/relationship to a donor or personal relationship, the other board members may feel they owe something to the recused member because of their relationship.

20:36:53 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Again, this is a temporary issue that you are trying to address with a permanent change to our election procedures. It's almost like nobody here realizes that Kimco can play the long game, wait out the village (which will soon have no legal funds left, let the village fall into ruin, and get their way ultimately without needing to fix these elections. The village has no authority. Kimco isn't stupid. If they want to buy an election it won't be the HRVB, it will be the zoning board. All this effort will do is bankrupt the village, prolong the inevitable, and prevent us from actually having meaningful input.

20:37:02 From Skye Anderson : When is the next meeting?

20:37:52 From Hickory Ridge : Good catch, Skye.

20:37:56 From Iris Mars : I attended a board meeting for a nonprofit and one woman asked for research grant money ... they all knew each other so they didn't want to turn her down.

20:37:56 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : It's a hunt for the boogy man! People are being manipulated by fear.

20:38:23 From Iris Mars : John, thank you for participating.

20:39:54 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : Yes! Especially the last statement Joan.

20:40:18 From Concerned Citizen : when is the next meeting?

20:40:36 From Michelle's iPhone 410-997-1461 : It's not called the visitors center.

20:41:17 From Concerned Citizen : I think you should publicize an inperson meeting

20:41:20 From Concerned Citizen : widely

20:41:47 From Skye Anderson : Laura always publishes the meetings in advance.

20:41:52 From Concerned Citizen : if you do an inperson meeting it should be widely publicixed

20:42:05 From Concerned Citizen : publicixed

20:42:08 From Concerned Citizen : zed

20:42:21 From Concerned Citizen : make it 2 weeks from now

20:42:51 From Jeremy Domm : Did Iris just say she has a conflict?

20:43:02 From Concerned Citizen : 7 tues zoom?

20:43:24 From Allison Sultan : please advertise this meeting as soon as possible