

Subject: Re: WHHA
From: Matthew Kindy <matthew@kindy.net>
Date: Sat, 06 Sep 2008 21:51:56 -0400
To: WindsorHillHomes@aol.com
BCC: Lynn@kindy.net

I'm sorry I can't address this to the author by name, because the tone of the response seems rather belligerent. It is regrettable if for some reason my questions have caused a problem. They were honest questions motivated by lack of information with no malicious intent. And I do appreciate the information. I would also appreciate it if you would share this exchange with the board. As our representatives, they should be aware of input from the members (including myself) and of responses made in the name of the board.

Mr. Kindy,

In response to your issues:

1. There will always be some days when some people can not attend.

The day of the meetings; first Tuesday of each month, was decided and voted in a meeting nearly a year ago.

The members in attendance have been able to adjust their personal schedule to be present at meetings.

It is a constant date. The meeting date will not be adjusted or varied to placate any one member as it will create confusion for all members.

A decision was made and I'm sure it was made to maximize acceptability to all members of the homeowners association. Since I (obviously) was not at the meeting where the decision was made, I simply asked about the possibility of a variable schedule. A simple "It was considered by the board and this decision was the result." would have sufficed.

2. There was a web site for Windsor Hill HOA in the past. It was created by a non-board member that 'volunteered'. This non-board member claimed his motives were noble. When the non-board member could not obtain all the things which he demanded from the board, he block access to the web site and then billed the Board for the domain which he eventually canceled.

The Board will NOT be placed in that situation again.

Understandable. The board, I take it, is not interested in hiring out the website maintenance to an outside firm. This is unfortunate since web publishing is one of the most cost-efficient means of distributing information.

As for your comment about "information should be easy to get", IT IS. Questions are answered at this email address. Those members that have issues that can not be answered to their satisfaction in emails, attend meetings.

With respect, I disagree. Information is available, certainly. Our definitions of "easy" differ, however. And, yes, when it is possible people can and should attend the meetings. Unfortunately, this is not possible for everyone and my question was aimed at making it "easy" to obtain information without regard to attendance at the meetings. I hope the board would agree that having the homeowners informed is something of value. The board might even find it easier to collect fees if the members were better informed - dates due, amounts due, addresses, phone numbers, emails, or whatever information that might make it "less painful" for the members.

3. Since you have expressed a personal interest in a digital copy and questioned the existence of a digital copy, it will be explained. There might be some individuals that may attempt to change or distribute a digital copy just to incite confusion. The Board MAY and DOES request payment for materials.

It was decided and voted at a meeting as to the proper cost.

It is NOT a 'high cost' as the reasonable market cost to type and transfer to Microsoft is more than the purchase price. It does not

matter as to whom typed it or who volunteered to type it, the Board could still charge for the material. It is really very simple, if you do not agree with the purchase price, you do not have to purchase a copy.

I must first confess that I'm not clear regarding the distributed copy - is it simply a printed document, or is it actually a Microsoft Word .DOC file that the requester receives? If a printed document, certainly photocopies would suffice - no need to type. If it is a digital document file, then I believe I understand the issue but differ on the interpretation.

First, there is no (and never was a) reason to type the Articles of Incorporation. I was able to (finally) locate my copy this week. It took me 10 minutes to scan in the document (14 pages) and prepare a PDF. [I'm happy to provide that PDF to the board for distribution if it would like.] The PDF is a digital version that I can now print at any time - in case I truly lose my paper copy. I only state this to show that there was no reason to have anybody type the document.

Second, security should - of course - be a concern. There are several ways the board could guarantee legitimacy. For example, a web site under the control of the board where the downloader can be certain of the legitimacy of the document. Digital watermarking or password is possible, as are other technologies. Of course, without precautions like these, it is irrelevant in what digital form the board distributes the document - all digital documents can be compromised if left unprotected.

Finally, I don't disagree with the right to charge for the document. Neither do I disagree with the fee if the document is indeed typed. It is, however, a high cost relative to other methods for achieving the result - distributing a photocopy could certainly be done for less (if a printed copy was the goal), as could creating a scanned digital copy.

I don't make these statements to incite emotional responses. These are legitimate alternatives the board may want to consider to reduce its members' costs - as well as the other concerns.

It is hoped that your issues have been answered.

Looking forward to see you those meetings you could attend.

Thank You

In a message dated 9/5/2008 4:04:41 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, matthew@kindy.net writes:

Issues I would like to present to the board but cannot - because of the first issue:

1. Meeting days seem to always be on Tuesdays. I don't know this for fact, but that is the impression I have. Perhaps my impression is not correct - I would appreciate a clarification if that is the case. Some people (such as myself) have schedules precluding some days of the week. Can not we vary these meetings to be on one day for say three months, then move to another day? Or maybe alternating days?

2. Why do we not have a web site where HOA information can be posted for review? I am willing to donate the domain name and hosting site, and maintain the site free of charge. Information should not be difficult for the homeowners to get.

3. I have never heard why there is such a high fee for a digital copy of the Articles of Incorporation. Can this be explained, please?

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