

The Candidate Forum

I want to thank the candidates running for the 2018 PIPOA Board for participating in the recent candidate forum. Many good questions were asked and answered. For those who could not attend, the entire forum can be watched on Facebook www.facebook.com/IslandIssues/posts or on Youtube <https://youtu.be/5EZ34tipYS8>

I was happy to see that each candidate took a stance on the important question of “who should be allowed to modify our Bylaws”. Candidates Vicki Marsden, Nick Colosi and Marta Sprout took the position that modifications to our Bylaws is a right that should be reserved solely for the Homeowners. Candidates Kay B Walker, Nancy Tressa and Leslie Hess took the position that the Board should be allowed to modify our Bylaws without any involvement from the Homeowners.

I was particularly interested in the comments made by Leslie Hess. As a Board Member, she has participated in several of these votes to modify our Bylaws. She said that the Board needed to make the changes because, in the past, it has been a problem to get enough Homeowner interest in these types of issues. Additionally, the changes they made were due to “housekeeping” issues, implying that all the changes were minimal and routine.

I took exception to both explanations.

My husband and I have owned property on the Island since 1996. Not once during that time do we (or any of the many, many Homeowners we have asked) ever remember any type of communication from the Board concerning the need to modify our Bylaws. On the contrary, the 2013 Board Meeting minutes show that the Board purposefully excluded the Homeowners from any involvement in the planned modifications. No communication attempt was made. No input was solicited.

Both times an amending vote was taken in 2017, the Homeowners were given only 72 hours notice that a Board vote was already scheduled. We were given no opportunity to be involved or provide input. It is not acceptable to say that there is no interest when we were not even given the opportunity to show any interest.

As recently as the Board meeting on Jan 23rd, the Board approved a Bylaw vote to be taken at the Feb Board meeting. This is an egregious example of excluding the Homeowners. Our Annual Member Meeting is scheduled just 2 weeks later in March, a perfect opportunity to involve the entire community. But again, our Bylaws are to be amended with no outreach to the Homeowners.

Ms. Hess, trust me, there is significant Homeowner interest.

As to the explanation that the modifications were simply “housekeeping” matters. Again, not true. The changes made in 2013 were sweeping and wide-ranging. Entire sections were re-written. Many Homeowners rights were reduced or removed. The changes made in April of 2017 changed the rules of the Board election in the middle of the election. The planned changes next month also affect our Board election processes.

Ms. Hess, none of these changes are small “housekeeping” matters.

Amending our Bylaws is a right to be reserved solely for the Homeowners. The Board has refused to allow a vote of the Homeowners at the Annual Member Meeting, so we must do it ourselves. I support

the ARCH Group and their efforts to return Bylaw amending rights solely to the Homeowners. Please visit www.PadreIslandARCH.com for more information and to request a ballot to vote on this most important issue.

I am also supporting Vicki Marsden, Nick Colosi and Marta Sprout in their election efforts. They are the only candidates who support our Bylaw amending rights. Please visit www.pipoachange.com to learn more about them.

Kelly McFadden