

Let's Do It Right This Time by Kelly McFadden

There has been quite a bit of discussion in our PIPOA community about the recently vacated Board seat. Board Secretary Vicki Marsden resigned her seat effective Oct 30 due to the sale of her Island home. And based on our PIPOA bylaws as well as Texas State law, it falls on our Board to select a replacement to serve out the remainder of the term which expires in March 2021.

Current Board President Marvin Jones has initiated extensive outreach to make our PIPOA community aware of the opening and to solicit applications for the position. There has been notice placed in the 11/8, 11/15, 11/22, 11/29, 12/6 and 12/13 issues of the Island Moon (www.IslandMoon.com). It was announced in an PIPOA email blast as well as announced on the PIPOA Facebook page, other various Island FaceBook pages as well as NextDoor on or around these same dates. All to make sure the community is aware of the opening and their right to submit their name for consideration. The deadline for submission was December 15th.

The Board then plans to interview each of the candidates. And, based on Texas State Code 209.0051 which covers any consideration or vote on a Board vacancy, I expect that these interviews will be held in a properly announced open meeting. <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PR/htm/PR.209.htm>

Once the public interviews are held, the Board can then vote on a replacement. Again, in a properly announced and open meeting per 209.0051.

There has been some discussion on social media and in the Island Moon that this vacancy should be filled quickly since the current makeup of 6 Board Members leaves any Board decisions vulnerable to a tie. But this does not seem to be a valid concern. Since the resignation, several Board votes have been taken (most recently at the Dec 11th Board meeting). None resulted in a tie, all were decided either unanimously or by a majority margin. Several of these votes can be watched at the recorded Dec 11th meeting. <https://youtu.be/KIO0g0-RpJQ>

Now, our PIPOA faced this exact situation in 2015. How was it handled then? Sometime after the June 23, 2015 Board meeting, Board Member Jeff Carlson resigned. The exact date is unclear as there was no official announcement by the PIPOA. There was a notice in the 7/16, 7/23 and 7/30 issues of the Island Moon soliciting Members to apply for the position with a deadline of July 31st. No email blast or social media outreach was done. Apparently, interviews were held in August, though no notice was given to the Members as was required by 209.0051. And a vote was taken to fill the seat at the August 25th Board Meeting. However, the agenda that was released to the Membership made no mention of the vote as was required by 209.0051. This made the appointment invalid.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vatwzya5k3x79yl/Agenda2015-08-25.pdf?dl=0>
<http://padreislespoa.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Minutes-8-25-15.pdf>

So, the last time this happened, they did it wrong. How about this time, we take the time to do it right.

I applaud President Jones' systematic, thoughtful and LEGAL approach to this important appointment.