

Ironwood Homeowners Association Monthly Meeting

February 9, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by President David Brown. Meeting was conducted via zoom.

Board Members Present: JoEllen Bahnsen, David Brown, Walt Clark, Amy Mortensen, Susan Parrent, Ali Preston, Linda Rheeling.

Residents Present: Three (3) residents were present via Zoom

Residents Comments and Concerns:

*** ***** regarding control of geese coming on to back yard from lake – Bahnsen shared that some yards have a stick with string to create a barrier. Bahnsen has observed that this has helped. Bahnsen shared another subdivision has swans to help deter the geese. Bahnsen also mentioned that aerators will be put in and hopes that may cut down on geese. ***** shared from the Town’s standpoint; the Town is reviewing it from the pictures that were shared in an email exchange. He mentioned that the Town is looking into options – potentially bringing in Normal Parks and Rec. Parrent suggested contacting the DNR to help reduce the population.

***** – Brought up concerns about fences, has no desire to install a fence herself. Noted that fences are not forbidden as many residents believe. They simply require board approval. She stated there is no amendment to the covenants. Brown discussed the approval and updates to fence guidelines via majority vote of quorum. ***** stated that she feels that young families are buying within the subdivision without clear direction that “fences are not allowed”. She does not feel it is clear, as they are allowed with board approval. She does agree there should be a standard style of fence. She feels the majority of the board having a hard stance of no fences is doing the subdivision a disservice. Feels the written guidelines should be upheld, if the fence request meets requirements, it should be approved.

Presidents Report:

Conducted electronic vote on approval of motion made and seconded (Clark/Brown) to spend \$3,305.00 to LKM for the clean-up of the Northtown berm from damage by the ice storm. Motion was approved on a 7-0 vote.

Prepared and distributed sheet regarding development of fence guidelines from 1999 to 2020.

Received and replied to an email from *** ***** regarding the large number of geese coming from the lake into his backyard which we just talked about under resident’s concerns. He has also been in touch with the Town of Normal regarding this issue.

Received the proposed by-laws back from Jay Reece with his comments and possible changes to them. Will talk more about them under old business.

Vice President's Report:

Linda Rheeling did not have any report to add for this month. She did want to thank *** ***** and ***** ***** for taking down the lights. Additionally, Jim Schmidt who took down the swags that were used for decoration.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the January 12, 2020 Monthly Meeting were presented. Motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes (Rheeling/Bahnsen) none opposed, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Bahnsen, reviewed the budget – monthly income and expenses were presented.

Current Bank statement was reviewed by Board Members. Noted, 70 homeowners have not paid annual dues as of 2/9/21.

Beautification Report:

No news to report.

Communications Report:

Usage report attached to agenda. January page views had increased – assumption is made this was due to annual meeting. March News article additions will need to be received by Friday, 2/12/21.

Covenants Report:

Size of a sign was reported, concerned it was too large (address was not given). Parrent did measure and confirmed that it was within the acceptable size. The sign was a political sign.

***** mentioned that sign restrictions are limited to real estate signs, via the covenants and by-laws. ***** pointed out that this is an exception to a written rule, that is not enforced. Gleason then noted that items allowed within the covenants/bylaws that are allowed then are denied – such as fences.

Parrent mentioned this has been discussed by the board in the past and they have agreed to allow these signs to be displayed (political signs).

SUV/Government Report:

Jim was not present.

Newcomers Report:

Chris was not present.

Old Business:

Appointment of an Audit Committee – ***** ***** (resident), Susan Parrent and Amy Mortensen. Will meet at Brown's home on 2/16/21 at 6:30. JoEllen Bahnsen will be present as well, in her role as Treasurer.

Update on by-law changes – Discussion was had that these were received back by the Attorney. Brown then asked how the board would like to present the changes, formatting preference. Rheeling asked if

the attorney would join us in March to discuss the Board Policy book. ***** requested more information regarding the policy – Brown then explained the reasoning. That the policy book would explain the boards stance on interpretation of the covenants and by-laws. Brown explained that this is an informational meeting to get questions answered from the board to determine the value of this policy book.

***** brought up that this is more inconsistency that opens up to potential lawsuit – referencing a past lawsuit where a homeowner won (daycare center in home). Brown mentioned the attorney advised consistency to prevent lawsuit. ***** then suggested that the residents should be invited for a question and answer – referencing that the membership is paying for the legal advice and should be open to residences.

Brown is ok with having the lawyer join us for an open meeting.

New Business:

Purchasing of Bond Insurance – required by the covenants. Bahnsen did some research and presented the research. It would be \$156.00 per year in addition to the regular liability insurance. Motion made and seconded (Clark/Mortensen) approved, none opposed.

Review of the fence guidelines. Begin with the proposal of changes proposed in January 2020 –

Brown suggested removing that and Mortensen supported that. What will remain under this are directions of fences around pools – removal of the above ground pool information only. Adjust wording to include all pool required fencing for both in ground and above ground.

Change this to a one step process – rather than a two-meeting process. Email 10 days prior to the meeting to allow prior discussion and final vote at the meeting.

Brown will adjust the proposal based on discussions and will bring changes to March meeting.

Rheeling brought up potential PayPal for payment of dues. Bahnsen has investigated electronic alternatives for payments – PayPal there are additional fees. More research will be done to see if we can expand our residents options for payments.

Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded (Rheeling/Preston) to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Next Meeting will be March 9, 2021 at 7:00pm.