

# Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District

## Minutes of Special Meeting January 31, 2023

**Board Members Present:** Mickey Koehler, Nancy Satterlee, Christian Anderson, Connie Hughes, Walt Breitinger, Kyle Hauber, and Michael Cantieri

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Consultants Present:** Alicia Barber, Dave Hollenbeck, Dale Brewer

**Audience:** Dan Drotar, Richard Tegt, Justin McCurdy, Jim Derr, Patty Campbell, and James Parsell

Mickey called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Dave mentioned a freeholder not on the certified list but in directorship 3 inquired about being able to vote. Dave said in the past they have set those ballots aside until after all ballots were counted and then determined what to do with them based on if it would change the outcome of the vote.

**Motion to approve Dave's suggestion for added freeholders:** Nancy motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Dave mentioned a valid freeholder that received the voting packet, but they are in Florida and want to vote. Dave suggested mailing the voting packet to Florida.

**Motion to approve Dave's suggestion to mail packets as suggested:** Nancy motioned, and Michael seconded. Motion passed.

Someone in the audience asked if anyone who is out of state can request a ballot or e-vote. Dave explained e-vote would not work because the voter's information and their vote wouldn't be secured the way it is through a 2-part envelope system. Dave and Mickey informed that if other voters who are out of state and qualify wish to vote that they can contact the office.

Dave asked Richard to pass out a copy of his original bio. Mickey mentioned that on January 20<sup>th</sup> we sent out an email from the website with Richards original bio and that it is still available in that email. Mickey explained that when he received the email notification, he determined the last part of the bio needed to be removed. Richard asked why the original bio is not available online and why it has been censored. Richard mentioned emailing the board asking for an explanation. Mickey mentioned that Richard said his first amendment rights were being violated so once it became a legal issue neither him nor the board could respond at that point and that this meeting is to respond to that email. Richard said on January 23<sup>rd</sup> he requested another paragraph be added to the remaining part of his bio and he did not get a response. Mickey answered they needed to hear from Dave first. Richard asked what the rules were for the online bio. Dave said it

needed to be biographical information about the candidate. Richard mentioned the definition of an autobiography and that it can include a person's past and future goal. Richard mentioned he was only told he could put up his bio online 18 hours before voting started when he had asked a month in advance. Richard mentioned Nancy has a bio on the website. Mickey explained that any of the current board members are allowed to have a bio online and that Nancy's bio has been on the website for years. Some discussion followed as to there needing to be a rule when and if a candidate can have a bio online. Walt agreed that only board members should have a bio online. Patty mentioned it would be fair to have both bios so that the voters know both candidates. Mickey answered that both candidates were given the lists of eligible voters so that they may send out their own bios to voters and its their responsibility to inform voters. Mickey mentioned that both candidates received the list at the same time. Someone in the audience requested the board adjust the election rules and regulations in the future. Dave mentioned that none of the accommodations thus far are required by the board. Dave mentioned the board tried to give the voters as big of an opportunity to vote as possible. Dave mentioned that there is no requirement to have candidate's bios on the website. Mickey mentions as chair of the board he made the decisions regarding Richard's bio. Some discussion followed regarding Richard's bio and past elections. Dave mentions that the letter that was sent out with the ballots states voters can access both candidates' bios on the website and for that reason he suggests the approved part of the bio should remain on the website. Dave mentions there is very little in the statutes that dictates how the election process should proceed. Mickey mentions that in fairness that if the board votes to remove the bio, that both bios should be removed.

**Motion to remove Richard's bio from the website:** Kyle motioned, and Walt seconded. Vote carried five for the vote and one against. One abstained.

Connie talked about the insurance plans and suggested VLACD choose plan one.

**Motion to approve the Insurance Renewal Plan One:** Christian motioned and Nancy seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Attested to by Alicia Barber

General Manager VLACD