

Proposal to Amend Voting Bylaw for Community Decisions

To: Board of White Horse Park Community Association

From: Pauline Polaski, Lot #112

Date: March 26, 2025

Subject: Proposal for Amendment of Voting Procedures

Overview

Currently, the bylaws of our community require in-person voting for certain decisions, while others do not have the same stipulation. This differentiation has not been adequately explained beyond its inclusion in the original bylaws. As the community continues to evolve, it is important to reassess the fairness and accessibility of our voting system, particularly for owners who may not always be able to attend meetings in person due to the seasonal nature of our community.

Proposal

I propose an amendment to the current bylaws to allow voting by mail (or an electronic alternative) for all decisions that require community votes. This would ensure that all owners, regardless of their physical presence in the community, have equal opportunities to participate in votes that directly affect the well-being of the community.

Rationale

- 1. Seasonal Community:** Many owners of properties in our community are only present during specific seasons. This creates an inherent disadvantage for those who cannot attend meetings in person, preventing them from having their voices heard on important decisions.
- 2. Fairness and Equity:** The current system disproportionately impacts those who are unable to attend meetings in person due to time constraints, travel, or other factors. Allowing mail-in voting (or an electronic alternative) would provide a more equitable solution, ensuring that all owners have the opportunity to vote on issues that impact the entire community.
- 3. Ensuring Comprehensive Participation:** Providing a remote voting option would increase community participation and ensure that decisions are made with input from the full range of owners, rather than just those who can be physically present.
- 4. Encouraging Engagement:** Making changes that give owners more flexibility, such as the ability to vote remotely, will help to unify the community and encourage greater involvement. It will make it easier for owners to engage with and contribute to the betterment of our shared vacation oasis, fostering a more connected and active community.

Proposed Changes to Bylaws

- **Current Bylaw:**

Article V

Section 3. A quorum at the annual meeting for the purpose of electing a board member(s) shall consist of twenty-five (25%) percent of the total property owners (116 lots) eligible to vote in person or by Absentee Ballot. A quorum for all other business conducted during the annual meeting, requiring a vote of the membership, shall consist of 15 (15%) percent of the total property owners (70 lots) eligible to vote in person only.

- **Proposed Amendment:**

Section 3. A quorum at the annual meeting for the purpose of electing a board member(s) shall consist of twenty-five (25%) percent of the total property owners (116 lots) eligible to vote in person or by Absentee Ballot. A quorum for all other business conducted during the annual meeting, requiring a vote of the membership, shall consist of 15 (15%) percent of the total property owners (70 lots) eligible to vote in person *or by Absentee Ballot (and/or electronic voting if/when available).*

Conclusion

Amending the bylaws to include mail-in or electronic voting is a reasonable and necessary step toward ensuring fairness, full participation, and greater community unity. It will provide owners with more flexibility, making it easier for everyone to have their voices heard. I encourage the board to consider this proposal and initiate the necessary process to amend the bylaws accordingly.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Pauline Polaski
Lot #112

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Melissa Peters 17

Sheela Hall 128

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