

VILLAGE OF MARTIN'S ADDITIONS  
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
WORKSESSION MINUTES

December 22, 2015

**Persons Present:**

Chair: Lee Ann Anderson, Chair

Committee Members: Natalie Welle, Steve Trowern, Marty Langelan, and Naomi Naierman

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30PM. The committee agreed to open all of its future meetings to the public. The Chair welcomed the two residents in attendance: Steve Schmal and Tiffany Cissna. They were invited to make comments on their past elections experience and/or the results of the survey recently conducted by the Elections Committee. Steve Schmal reviewed his comments on the survey which he had submitted online including the issue of using mail slots to insert the homes of residents. Marty offered to look into the post office rules on this matter. Tiffany Cissna thanked the committee for volunteering to serve and suggested that we review Village documents on election rules. Hearing all public comments, the committee Chair closed the public comment session to begin the review and deliberations of the survey results.

On question #1, there was general agreement by respondents that the sidewalk event should be retained as a place for voting in person and as an occasion for a community celebration. On question #2, regarding absentee ballots sent to voters via email, the committee agreed that this option would be available if the voter himself/herself requests the ballot and that one ballot would be sent per email address.

On question #3, respondents voted for a secure absentee ballot process which the Committee will draft and propose to the Council. It was agreed that mailed ballots are to be sent to a PO box no later than 3 days before the election date. Otherwise they can be brought to the Village office where they would be inserted into a secured Lock Box. Members of the Elections Committee will collect the ballots from both places, as per question #4, in which respondents indicated a preference for absentee ballots to be submitted to the Committee rather than the Village staff. Natalie offered to look into renting a PO box at the Chevy Chase Village Post Office. On question #5, the Committee agreed with the majority of voters who requested that absentee ballots can be brought to the polls on Election Day if they had not already be submitted.

At this point, a discussion ensued as to the time and date of the next election. To ensure that public comments could be made throughout the rest of the meeting, the Committee voted to re-open the discussion at 7:35. After reviewing the Village Charter with Tiffany's help, it was suggested that the 2016 election is likely to be held on May 12 from 5-7:30PM.

On question 6, the survey respondents were split between allowing online voting or not, with the No vote slightly ahead. The Committee is inclined to recommend that online voting will not be available largely due to the burden of instituting such a process. On question 7, the Committee agreed with the majority of survey respondents who prefer that the election be held on a Thursday evening rather than a weekend day.

On question #8-10, it was noted that most of the concerns were already covered by the previous questions and/or current practices which will be included in the recommendations submitted to the Council. Any ethical issues will abide by the policies established by the newly formed Ethics Committee.

The Committee decided on the goal of submitting its recommended procedures to the Council by its January 21 meeting. Steve volunteered to write the first draft of the absentee ballot procedures and Lee Ann offered to draft the procedures on electioneering. Marty will take a stab at the first round of editing of the current procedures on all other matters.

The next public work session of the Committee will be held on January 7 at 7:30 at the Village office. The meeting will focus on a working draft of the elections procedures. The staff will be notified of this meeting and its agenda.

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Naomi Naierman