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RCSC board tables motion

Members ridicule proposal requiring 3,500 voters for recall election

by Jeff Dempsey, Daily News-Sun

The crowd of 350 inside the Mountain View Auditorium booed RCSC officials repeatedly during a three-hour meeting Thursday night, forcing the board of directors to reconsider a bylaws change that would have raised the requirement for a quorum at quarterly membership meetings.

“When you’ve been faced with opposition in the past, you’ve been smart enough to take a step back and look at it again, and I commend you for that,” said Bill Pearson. “And in this case, I have to say, 3,500 people is ridiculous. It’s too high. It needs to be reconsidered.”

Pearson, former Sun City Home Owners Association director, was referring to the bylaws change that...

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...would have raised the requirement for a quorum at quarterly membership meetings from 100 people to 10 percent of eligible voters, or 3,580 people.

The decision to table the motion was preceded by a heated discussion, which included Dave Mussaf, a frequent critic of the board, showing his disdain for board members as well as opposition to the motion.

“I’m tired of a board that does exactly what it wants,” Mussaf said. “The president of this organization asked me: ‘Do you want 67 people making decisions for Sun City?’ And I say: Yes, it’s better than these eight people who don’t represent us.”

Director Jim Bishop explained the board’s decision to make the motion, saying it was following the advice of lawyers.

“Our legal counsel recommended we change it to get it in line with Arizona Revised Statute,” Bishop said. “That number equated to 0.3 percent, and it’s so

old it’s ridiculous. It’s something that’s been around since Del Webb was still here. To say that 67 people can make decisions for 36,800 members, there’s just no sense in that.”

Board President Warren Hoffman indicated the board had not fully assessed all of the implications of the change. For example: Where would a meeting requiring a quorum of more than 3,500 people take place?

“We did not consider where we would have to hold the meeting if 3,500 people showed up,” Hoffman said. “If we had to, we’d hold it at the Sun Bowl.”

Hoffmann later was asked if he would be expecting 3,500 people to sit outside for membership meetings in the cold of January or in the heat of the summer. Hoffmann said he anticipated many people would vote by proxy.

Eventually, RCSC General Manager Jan Ek suggested the board table the motion. Director Gene Westmeier agreed.

“I want you to know we do listen, and we do understand what you are telling us,” he said. “We don’t operate in a vacuum here. We get plenty of phone calls. We know how you feel before these meetings take place. Now with this issue: Is 10 percent a good number? I don’t know. I do know that 100 people is not a good number. What the right number is, I don’t know.”

The RCSC board will meet again at 9 a.m., Nov. 9 for a director-member exchange meeting at Lakeview Social Hall 3. The next regular meeting of the board and quarterly membership meeting will be 9 a.m. Nov. 19 at the Sundial Recreation Center.

For information, visit www.sunaz.com.

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