

Carriage Square Homeowners Association General Membership Meeting

September 4, 2018 Minutes

The general meeting, held at Carriage Square Park, was called to order by President Mark De La Torre at 6:23 p.m.

Six board members in attendance were: Mark De La Torre, Michele Stokes, Gail Kane, Geigy Stringer, Bonnie Hoffecker, and Christy McGrew.

Four members in attendance were: Charity Sharp, Brett Stringer, Melissa De La Torre, and Sena Loyd.

Immediately, Director Hoffecker nominated Michele Stokes for the office of President and called for a vote.

President Mark De La Torre requested clarification whether the meeting was going to be held in the format of a board meeting or be exclusively for the election of officers. Director Hoffecker replied that the meeting would be solely for elections and no one objected.

A vote immediately followed by raised hands of 7 of the 10 in attendance in favor of Michele Stokes for president.

A subsequent vote of the raised hands of 3 of the 10 in attendance was counted in favor of Mark De La Torre for president.

De La Torre declared himself the winner as he presented the assembly twelve Voting Proxy Forms. On examination by the secretary, the "Homeowners Association Voting Proxy Form" was evidently the creation of De La Torre. All appeared to have been signed by Home Owners (eleven dated 9-4-18 and one dated 9-3-18), giving Mark De La Torre "*authorization to vote on my behalf on all issues put to a vote by the homeowners association during the 9-4-18 meeting.*"

De La Torre's secret use of and reliance on the voting proxy forms to hold on to the office of president enraged board members Kane, Hoffecker and Stokes. Treasurer Kane found De La Torre's conduct so repugnant that she promptly tearfully declared her resignation and left the meeting. Vice President Stokes questioned the use of voting proxies at elections, for being unprecedented. She participated in discussions for 10 to 15 minutes then threatened to resign as well, before also leaving the meeting. An emotional Director Hoffecker directed a barrage of personal attacks at De La Torre to which he responded point-by-point. Secretary Stringer moved to adjourn the meeting, but no one seconded her motion.

Dialogue continued between Hoffecker and De La Torre. Reaching calm, Hoffecker expressed her unwillingness to work with De La Torre. She considered rendering her resignation as well. Stringer asked De La Torre why he would not just step down, he being confronted with one

resignation and two more threatened by board members who expressly did not wish to work with him. He said the proxies manifested the members' desire that he serve.

Stringer moved to form a committee to review the validity of the Voting Proxy Forms.

Stringer chided Hoffecker not to resign. She said that if the Voting Proxy Forms were found by the proposed committee to be valid and De La Torre retained his position as president therefrom, the board could unseat him by Petition for Recall, pursuant to the By-Laws.

Stringer moved additionally to hold a Special Meeting in one month, in order to give the proposed committee time to study the issue.

Hoffecker seconded Stringer's motion to form the Election Review Committee. Stringer and Hoffecker volunteered to serve on the committee, to no one's objection.

It was moved and no one objected that a Special General Meeting be scheduled in two weeks' time wherein committee findings would be delivered and the election revisited. Hoffecker said she would prepare a flyer to notify the general membership of the upcoming Special General Meeting.

Airing of grievances past and present continued between Hoffecker and De La Torre, culminating in an exchange of reconciling sentiments.

Being moved and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.