Revisions to the UGHA Bylaws

Annual meeting
Monday, October 17, 2011
Impetus for the revisions

• Requirement for a quorum at meetings
  – nothing gets passed without external vote
  – Lack of participation equates to a “No” vote
• No mention of Communication Officer
• Secretary/Treasurer a challenging combination
Bylaws Review

• Ad hoc committee members, two meetings
  – Kevin Silverstein, Chair
  – Sue Gehrz
  – Sue Hoyt
  – Russ Hobbie

• Board members, two meetings

• Steering committee, one meeting

• Community review period, two weeks
Ground rules

• Kevin will present the proposed changes
  – Discussion is encouraged from the audience
  – A motion to amend any changes can be made and voted upon

• An e-mail will be sent to all households with the final proposed bylaws amendments
  – Households will be allowed to vote Yes/No to the entire set of amendments via an anonymous survey
  – Voting closes two weeks after e-mail
Proposed changes

• Voting procedures and decision requirements
• Petition threshold for raising issues
• Communication Officer description
• Split of Secretary/Treasurer position
• Clarification of all officer duties
• Change to the fiscal year definition
• Minor edits for clarity
Voting procedures and decision requirements

• Current rules
  – A quorum is required (52+ households) for any action to be taken on agenda items at a meeting
  – A vote can take place outside the meeting (via mail or e-mail), but 52+ households must return a ballot to achieve a decision
  – A quorum is not required for elections
Voting procedures and decision requirements

- Proposed rules
  - Voting items distributed in agenda two weeks prior to a meeting
  - During meeting, a motion may be made and voted upon to amend these voting items
  - Voting at meetings limited to election of Board members and to amendments on voting items.
    - A decision on these votes is determined by a majority of households attending the meeting.
  - On all other voting items brought to a meeting, households may submit electronic votes or written ballots after the meeting is adjourned.
    - A decision on these votes is determined by a majority of the votes received*
    - These will be accepted for two weeks after the meeting.
  - A majority of the steering committee can determine in advance of the vote on an issue that the vote must be done by secret ballot.
  - Only one member of each household may vote.
  - Voting results will be communicated via e-mail no later than 48 hours after the voting has closed.

*Amendments to the bylaws themselves require a majority of all households in the Grove for passage as described in Article IX.
Petition threshold for raising issues

• Current rules
  – 5 households required to initiate a voting item not suggested by the Steering Committee

• Proposed rules
  – Raise threshold to 10 households
    • This is still less than 10% of households
    • Avoids potential for small group pushing their “agenda”
Communication Officer description

• Invaluable position is not mentioned in the existing bylaws
• Suggested wording stipulates a stipend contingent upon available funds
• General duties outlined, but precise duties will be determined by annual contract with the President
Split of Secretary/Treasurer position

• Problems with current merged position
  – Difficult to fill due to diverse responsibilities
  – Taking minutes at annual meeting difficult due to presentation requirements

• Proposed changes
  – Split responsibilities across two positions
Clarification of all officer duties

- Clearer descriptions of the job requirements for each office
- A requirement, with deadlines, to transfer materials to the incoming officer
Change to the fiscal year definition

- Move to federal fiscal calendar to simplify
  - dues accounting
  - stipend payment to Communication Officer
Proposed changes

• Voting procedures and decision requirements
• Petition threshold for raising issues
• Communication Officer description
• Split of Secretary/Treasurer position
• Clarification of all officer duties
• Change to the fiscal year definition
• Minor edits for clarity
The new voting experience

• E-mail to all residents will notify that a ballot has been mailed to the primary e-mail address for a household
• One private URL will be mailed per household
• Residents will follow the link to Survey Monkey
• We will know who voted, but not how they voted
The new voting experience

UGHA Bylaws Changes Vote 2011

1. Do you accept all bylaws changes?
   - Yes
   - No

2. If you answered "No" to the above question, which bylaws changes did you object to? (You can select more than one.)
   - Voting procedures and decision requirements (e.g., removing quorum)
   - Petition threshold for raising issues (i.e., 10 households instead of 5)
   - Communication Officer description
   - Split of Secretary/Treasurer position
   - Clarification of all officer duties
   - Change to the fiscal year definition (i.e., start October 1 instead of September 1)
   - Minor edits for clarity

[Submit]