

THE HILLSIDE NEWS

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April 2020

COVID-19 Sucks

The words coronavirus, COVID-19, and pandemic are sucking all the air out of the room, demanding our attention, and scaring us all. It is the “elephant in the room”, no matter where we are and sometimes it is hard to think about much of anything else. It is changing how we live our lives.

COVID-19 also having important effects on our Hillside community. This newsletter will point some of those out and report on other things that are going on in our community. We need to help support each other through this stressful time.

Board Changes

The Hillside Board of Directors reached full membership (seven) in January of this year. Katy McCarthy volunteered to fill the vacant 7th position. She was appointed as an interim Board member, until the next HOA Annual Meeting. She has been serving valiantly since that time.

However, the fully staffed Board did not last long. On April 18, 2020 the Board went back down to 6 members. On that day Lynn Calhoun emailed his resignation to the Board, saying “Quite simply, I can’t commit the time or attention that it requires and that the position deserves”.

Lynn was one of the inaugural members of the Hillside Board of Directors. He served his initial term and was going to retire from the Board. We asked him to run for a second term, he reconsidered, and was elected to for 2 more years at the last Annual Meeting.

The Board is very sad to have Lynn leave. In particular, he helped establish and maintain an excellent fiscal foundation for Hillside. He was a voice of calm reason,

especially during contentious discussions. We will miss his thoughtful insights, business acumen, and wise counsel. If you get a chance, please thank Lynn for his service.

Board Election 2020

The election of Directors to serve on the Hillside Condominium Association Board will occur at the 2020 Annual Meeting (see below). The current Board is made up of:

- Steve Warren – President
- Dave Robinson – Vice President
- Tom Shaw – Secretary
- Mike Holton
- Scott Crosby
- Katy McCarthy

(The office of Treasurer is vacant due to the resignation of Lynn Calhoun.)

The terms of service for Steve Warren, Dave Robinson, and Tom Shaw will end after the Annual Meeting. Therefore, there will be four (4) Director positions (including the position vacated by Lynn Calhoun) open for election this year.

The Board whole-heartedly requests that any Hillside resident, who might consider being a candidate for the Hillside Board of Directors, please contact Natasha at Gerow (natashab@gerowmanagement.com) or one of the current Board members.

I believe, much of the foundational work to organize and establish the Association’s governance has been completed. There are always financial, social, and other concerns that need to be discussed and decided. A caring, thoughtful, and engaged Board of Directors is necessary for the successful management of a condominium community, like Hillside.

Annual Meeting 2020

A number of Hillside residents have asked that the date of the Hillside annual meeting be changed from July. The concern is that July may not be the best time to maximize meeting attendance. Many residents are on vacation, at their cottage, or otherwise unavailable. It has been suggested by some that September may be a better month.

The Board needs to consider this concern at their next meeting. Maybe we should do a survey of Hillside residents, to have a better sense of how this may affect attendance.

Next Board Meeting

The Board meeting scheduled for March did not occur, due to coronavirus concerns. The next scheduled meeting is May 11, 2020. Regardless of what happens with COVID-19 restrictions at the end of April, I believe, the Board should investigate having virtual meetings. Perhaps, we could try using Zoom, FaceTime, or some other internet program to conduct a meeting and see how it works.

Landscaping Update – Cathy Downer

As we are all aware, Governor Whitmer has determined that landscape services are non-essential. With that in mind, spring clean-up and fertilizer applications have been delayed. We have been in contact with Shawn from Pepperidge and he has assured us that as soon as the stay-at-home order is lifted, they will be on site with a full crew. He is very confident that Hillside will look as good or better than it ever has this season.

We have also been in contact with Dan Clark from Clark Nursery, regarding the completion of the Master Plan. Dan has assured us that they too will be on site as soon as they are allowed to finish the work. Improvements to the entrance sign, including the visibility of the word Hillside, continue to be discussed.

An American Hero

Even though he had a condo just down the street, I never met former Hillside resident, Al Worden. Al was the command module pilot for Apollo 15 in 1971. He circled the moon for 3 days, while Dave Scott and Jim Irwin worked on the lunar surface. During the trip back to earth, Al did the first spacewalk in deep space, retrieving film from scientific cameras outside the capsule. In 1996 he was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. Al Worden passed away this March at age 88. He was a true hero and we appreciate his service.

Gerow Management: 616-433-9090

Hillside website: <http://hillside.condos>

Facebook page: Hillside Condo Neighbors

Many people are using the golf course property. I was asked to include the recent Thousand Oaks Golf Club letter for your consideration. (attached with this email).



This is how I feel, when I go out these days.