



# MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

10120 APPLE RIDGE ROAD  
MONTGOMERY VILLAGE, MARYLAND 20886-1000

(301) 948-0110 FAX (301) 990-7071 [www.montgomeryvillage.com](http://www.montgomeryvillage.com)

September 5, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

TO: MVF Election Committee

FROM: Mike Conroy, Assistant Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Meeting Announcement

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The first meeting of the Election Committee for the 2018-2019 MVF election season will be held on **Thursday, Sept. 12 at the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road at 7 p.m.** Please enter the building through the front door.

The committee will review the *Election Committee Guidelines*, the election process and the voting process, and discuss candidate Questions for the *Village News*.

Please contact me at 240-243-2331 or [mconroy@mvf.org](mailto:mconroy@mvf.org) if you have any questions or if you will be unable to attend.



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## MVF Election Committee

September 12, 2019

7 p.m.

MVF Office

### Agenda

1. Residents' Time
2. Chair's Remarks
3. Approve minutes of previous meeting (Attachment 1)
4. Note Election Committee Guidelines (Attachment 2)
5. Review election process
  - A. Election and Voting Procedures (motion required) (Attachment 3-A)
  - B. Review Election Information (motion required) (Attachment 3-B)
  - C. Note Guidelines for Ballot Counting (motion required) (Attachment 3-C)
  - D. Demonstration of validation process (if requested – motion not required)
6. Review voting process (**motion not required**)
7. Alternatives to Candidates' Forum (Attachment 4) (**motion required**)
8. Discuss Candidate Questions for *Village News* (Attachment 5) (**motion not required**)
9. Review Draft MVF Election Calendar **2019-2020** (Attachment 6) (**motion required**)
10. Confirm next meeting date – **March 20, 2020**
11. Adjourn

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION**

**Election Committee**

**March 15, 2019**

A regular meeting for the Montgomery Village Foundation Nominating Committee was held at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2019 at the MVF Administrative Center, Montgomery Village, Maryland.

**Members Present**

Pamela Bort, Chairperson  
Maira LaVeck  
Melanie O'Brien  
Rebecca Smigel

**Members Absent**

Nancy King

**Others Present**

Mike Conroy, Assistant EVP  
Roslyn Price, Communications Assistant  
Cynthia Bangali, Recording Secretary

**1. Residents' Time**

There were no residents present.

**2. Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Bort, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**3. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**Ms. Smigel moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2018 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Validation of Ballots**

##### **A. Random validation of Election Committee**

Ms. Price reported that 1,801 ballots were returned out of 11,108 ballots for a return rate of 16.21%. Ms. Price noted that Cider Mill, a multi-family unit had received and returned 432 ballots. She reported that there were 50 undeliverable ballots and that most had no forwarding address and several were resent with new addresses.

##### **B. Review of and decision on questionable ballot envelopes**

Ms. Price noted that two ballots were received from homeowners who owe less than \$25 as a result of not paying the architectural review fee and that four ballots were from homeowners owing more than \$30 on their assessment. In addition, Ms. Price informed the committee that five ballots were received from residents owing capital contribution fees. The committee discussed these ballots in depth.

**Ms. O'Brien moved to accept the two ballots from homeowners who owe less than \$25 in assessments. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ms. LaVeck moved not to accept the four ballots from the homeowners owing more than \$30 on their assessment fee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ms. O'Brien moved to not accept the five ballots owing capital contribution fees. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Ms. Price informed the committee that four ballots were received with improper or no signature on them. She reviewed and discussed the requirements for ballots to be counted which include signature of the owner on record. In addition, Ms. Price explained that a resident who resides in Whetstone had inadvertently mailed their ballot in the Whetstone Homes Corporation Board of Directors Election envelope instead of the MVF Board of Directors envelope.

**Ms. LaVeck moved not to accept the four ballots with no signature. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ms. LaVeck moved to accept the one ballot that was inadvertently mailed in a Whetstone Homes Corporation Board Election envelope. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Ms. Price reported that seven ballots had been received from homeowners with architectural violations. In addition, she informed the committee that there were six ballots received from homeowners who owed architectural review fees only.

**Ms. O'Brien moved to not accept the seven ballots with architectural violations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

**Ms. O'Brien moved to accept the six ballots from homeowners owing architectural review fees only. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

## **5. Review and approve of draft election report**

The Committee made its determination regarding questionable ballots and the election report was revised. It is attached for the record.

**Ms. LaVeck moved to approve the election report as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

## **6. Review and approve election volunteers**

The Committee reviewed the list of individuals who volunteered to count the MVF Board of Directors ballots on Saturday, March 16, 2019. Mr. Conroy noted that Ms. King would not be available as planned as well as Mr. Cline.

**Ms. O'Brien moved to accept the list of volunteers for the count of the MVF Board of Directors ballots on Saturday, March 16, 2019 as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

## **7. Review procedures for election volunteers**

The Committee reviewed the procedure for election volunteers.

## **8. Review Candidates' Forum**

Mr. Conroy reported that there were only two residents in attendance at the Candidates' Forum which was hosted on the snow date. Ms. Bort noted that one of the candidates did not attend. She suggested that the amount of time to ask questions be shortened. Mr. Conroy wondered if based on the attendance for the recent forum as well as previously held ones, if the time invested to put the candidate forum was time well spent. He suggested that there may be a more practical way to have a question and answer session. The committee discussed the option of having resident submit their questions and having the candidates taped as they answer the questions and posting the taped responses. Mr. Conroy noted that they could make the video available on the website. Ms. Bort emphasized the importance of getting a wide range of questions from residents. The Committee agreed to review and discuss a new format at its fall meeting.

## **9. Discuss need for additional meeting to evaluate election**

The need for an additional meeting was not requested.

## **Adjournment**

**Ms. Smigel moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Bangali  
Recording Secretary

## MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.

**ELECTION COMMITTEE GUIDELINES**

The Election Committee is a standing committee of the Montgomery Village Foundation. Pursuant to the Montgomery Village Foundation, Inc. By-Laws, Article XII, Section 7, "The Election Committee shall have the responsibility for administering the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors election in a fair and impartial manner as further specified in Article VIII

**PURPOSE:** Article VIII, Section 5 of the MVF By-Laws states "An Election Committee which shall consist of five (5) members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for maintaining the safekeeping of the written ballots once collected by the Secretary or such other officer of the Foundation deemed responsible therefor and shall be required to follow such verification procedures as may be adopted by the Board of Directors regarding votes cast, genuineness of signatures, validity of proxies and such other matters as will insure a fair election."

**STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:** Each committee member shall listen carefully to and respect the opinions of fellow committee members, refraining from negative or belligerent comments; participate actively in committee meetings; keep well informed of developments relevant to issues that may come before the committee; and respect and uphold the majority decisions of the committee.

**MEETINGS:**

1. The Election Committee meets a minimum of twice a year.
2. All meetings are open to the public.
3. Each Committee meeting will begin with a "Residents' Time" to hear and consider suggestions from Foundation members and Village residents concerning Foundation responsibilities, facilities and/or activities within the Committee's purview.
4. The Committee Chair is authorized to conduct meetings, and meetings will generally follow Robert's Rules of Order, applied informally and flexibly by the Chair, unless in the judgment of the Chair, a more formal application of Robert's Rules is necessary to provide additional clarity and order to ensure completion of the Committee's business.
5. Decisions or recommendations of the Committee are approved by a simple majority vote of members present and voting (voting by proxy is prohibited). Minutes of the meetings should include the participation, agenda items, motions/resolutions/recommendations and Committee votes.

**MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Membership on the Election Committee is established in the MVF By-laws Article VIII, as noted above: The committee "shall consist of five (5) members...appointed by the Board of Directors and shall be responsible for maintaining the safekeeping of the written ballots once collected by the Secretary or such other officer of the Foundation deemed responsible therefor and shall be required to follow such verification procedures as may be adopted by the Board of Directors regarding votes cast, genuineness of signatures, validity of proxies and such other matters as will insure a fair election."
2. Applicants should be Montgomery Village property owners or residents in good standing (current in assessments and no architectural violations).
3. Membership of the Election and Nominating Committees shall be mutually exclusive: the same people cannot serve on both the Election Committee and the Nominating Committee.

4. A member of the Election Committee may not be a candidate for the Board of Directors.
5. A Committee member who is absent from two of the regularly scheduled Committee meetings in a 12 month period, beginning April 1 of each year, may be removed from the Committee. The Board may waive the resignation for illness, emergency, or other good cause provided that the member and the Chairperson each submit a written explanation as to why the member in question should remain on the committee.

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

1. As established in the MVF By-Laws, "A member of the Board of Directors shall be the Chair of the Election Committee."
2. The Committee Chair shall confer with the Staff Liaison to prepare the meeting agenda.
3. Communicate the Board intent when issues are referred to the committee for action/review.
4. Communicate the committee intent when recommendations/requests are forwarded to the Board for action.
5. Provide the Board with feedback on Committee performance.
6. Provide leadership by acting as a facilitator to keep discussions on track, managing differences of opinion and ensuring that the discussion remains on topic, productive and professional.

#### **STAFF LIAISON:**

The Director of Communications (MVF Corporate Secretary) shall serve as Staff Liaison to the Election Committee.

1. Confer with the Committee Chair to prepare the meeting agenda.
2. Provide technical assistance and coordinate administrative support, including preparation of supporting committee packets.

#### **GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Maintain the safekeeping of the written ballots once collected by the Secretary or such officer of the Foundation deemed responsible therefor.
2. Follow such verification procedures as may be adopted by the Board of Directors regarding votes cast, genuineness of signatures, validity of proxies and such other matters as will insure a fair election.
3. Administer the ballot count and tabulate the ballots in such a manner as to ensure the integrity of the election process and its compliance with applicable State and County laws governing homeowners association elections, and present a report to the Board.
4. Refrain from campaigning either for or against any nominee during the election for which they are serving as Election Committee members.

Adopted by MVF Board of Directors - May 18, 1970

Reaffirmed - 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992

Revised and Approved by MVF Board of Directors- 1993, 1994

Reaffirmed - September 28, 1995

Revised and Approved by MVF Board of Directors - September 24, 1996

Reaffirmed - September 25, 1997

Re-formatted per MVF Board standard - August 28, 1998

Revised and Approved by MVF Board of Directors - September 24, 1998

Revised and Approved by MVF Board of Directors - September 23, 1999

Reaffirmed – September, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Revised and approved by MVF Board of Directors – August 28, 2014

Revised and approved by MVF Board of Directors – December 3, 2015

## Montgomery Village Foundation Election & Voting Procedures 2020

1. In December, the Executive Vice President shall advise owners of multi-family units of requirements which must be satisfied by **January 15, 2020**, in order to receive a ballot for the **2020** MVF Board of Directors Election:
  - a. to verify the actual number of units owned as of December 31, **2019**;
  - b. where applicable, to have on file with MVF a certification of a designation of agent who will cast the vote of the multi-family owner(s).
2. In December, the Executive Vice President shall request from the condominiums not managed by MVF a list of the owners of record and their addresses as of December 31, 2019 and that information be received at the MVF Office by January **15, 2020**.
3. All elections to the Board of Directors shall be made by secret written ballot. Ballots are to be mailed on **February 7, 2020**. Owners of record as of December 31, **2019** will be mailed ballots. Members who settle property between January 1, **2020** and March **20, 2020** may request a ballot in person at the MVF office with proof of ownership. Members in communities not managed by MVF will receive ballots provided that their management agent provides MVF with the list of eligible property owners and their addresses. These lists, all designation of agents for multi-family properties and any proxy forms must be received in the MVF Office as of January **15, 2020** in order to receive a ballot. Ballots will be mailed to condominium owners on Friday, **Jan. 31, 2020** and delivered to multi-family owners or designated agents shortly following that date.
4. The ballot mailing shall include instructions on voting, a ballot, a postage paid return envelope, a summary of candidates' qualifications and notice of the annual meeting.
5. The Election Committee shall be responsible for maintaining the safekeeping of the written ballots once collected by the Secretary or such other officer of the Foundation deemed responsible thereof. As ballots are returned to the MVF office, the following procedures will be enacted:
  - a. Ballot envelopes will be stamped with the date of receipt.
  - b. Ballot envelopes will be given to a designated staff person unopened for safekeeping.
6. Designated staff shall verify ballot envelopes prior to the Election Committee meeting on March **20, 2020**, circumstances permitting.

To be valid, a ballot envelope:

- a. Must be received at the MVF Office by 5 p.m., Friday, March **20, 2020**.
- b. Must be signed by owner of record or designated agent who is registered with the MVF.
- c. Must have the address of a Village property for which there is not any architectural violation.
- d. Must not be a duplicate from same address. If duplicate ballots are received, the first ballot received by the MVF, as determined by the postmark or receipt stamp,

if hand delivered, will be considered valid, unless it is personally withdrawn by the voter and another ballot is re-submitted.

- e. Must be sealed.
  - f. For your ballot to be valid, assessments (including administrative costs and Capital Contribution Fee) must be current through December 31, **2019** (paid by February **29, 2020**) and must be identified for a unit for which there is not a sustained violation of any covenant, architectural standard or rule.
  - g. Where the condominium assessment as a whole is not current by December 31, **2019** and paid by February **29, 2020**, ballots from individual owners will be considered invalid.
  - h. In the case of a unit for which assessments are current, but were paid late, administrative fees, including interest, must total \$30 or less in order for the ballot to be considered valid. In the case of private dwelling units, an assessment represents one quarterly payment; in the case of a condominium association or multi-family apartment complex, it represents one month's payment.
7. If a ballot envelope is in jeopardy of being invalidated due to a name of record concern, staff will attempt to contact the member who submitted the ballot envelope to clarify the name information. Prior to the Election Committee meeting at which questionable ballot envelopes are validated, staff will make every attempt to contact the owner of record of any property whose ballot is not signed, improperly signed, or for which there is an outstanding administrative fee and/or interest above \$30.
  8. Returned ballot envelopes marked "addresses unknown" shall be checked with Assessment Administrator for possible forwarding address. If no address is available, the returned mail shall be held on file until the election has been certified.
  9. The Executive Vice President or his/her designee shall present all ballot envelopes and the verification report to the Election Committee who has the responsibility for the official validation of the ballots. At that time, the Committee may make random sample verifications as they wish. Acceptance of the staff report and information shall constitute official validation of the ballots.
  10. All candidates for election shall be invited to be present during the validation procedures. By the completion of the Election Committee's official validation of the ballots, challenges, if any, must be made known to the committee.
  11. Ballots will be counted on March **21, 2020**, beginning at 9 a.m. at the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road, providing that the validation process was completed.
  12. Ballot counting shall be conducted in the following manner:
    - a. The Election Committee is responsible for administering the ballot counting process.
    - b. Candidates and other interested parties are invited to observe the ballot counting process but will be required to remain in an area designated by the Election Committee so as not to interfere with the process.
    - c. Approved ballot counters shall open the envelope and remove the ballot in such a manner as to ensure the secrecy of the ballot and then proceed with the counting.

- d. The identifying portion of the empty envelopes will be placed in a secure location to be determined by the Election Committee.
13. Ballots will not be counted if:
    - a. There is more than one (1) vote per candidate or more than three (3) votes total.
    - b. Votes are not indicated.
  14. When the vote count has been completed, the results will be recorded on an Election Committee report and signed by all members of the committee present at the counting.
  15. Following the counting of the ballots, the results will be announced. The chairman of the Election Committee will notify candidates of results following the counting.
  16. A candidate may contest the election results by notifying the President of the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors in writing no later than 5 p.m. of the third business day following the date of the ballot counting and announcement of results. The notice shall describe the basis for contesting the results. The Foundation Board shall meet within ten (10) days after receipt of such notice to consider all questions arising therefrom.
  17. Members may view the ballots by completing a Request for Information Form. Ballots will be available from the business day after the final date for challenges until the business day following the Annual Meeting, after which they will be destroyed.
  18. The staff liaison to the Election Committee shall prepare a report of the election results for the Board of Directors that shall include the names of all residents who receive write-in votes and the total number of votes received by ineligible or fictional characters.

Updated for the 1989 Election – 11/2/88

Revised and adopted by the MVF Board of Directors – 5/12/89

Adopted by the MVF Board of Directors – 1989 and 1990

Revised and adopted by the MVF Board of Directors – 12/5/91

Reaffirmed by MVF Board of Directors – 11/19/92

Revised and Adopted by MVF Board of Directors – 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

**MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
2020 VOTING INFORMATION  
FOR OWNERS OF PRIVATE DWELLING UNITS**

1. For your ballot to be valid, assessments (including administration fees and Capital Contribution Fee) must be current through **December 31, 2019** (paid by **February 29, 2020**) and must be identified for a unit for which there is not a sustained violation of any covenant, architectural standard or rule.
2. Vote for no more than three candidates including write-ins.
3. To keep your vote secret, please do not sign the face of the ballot.
4. Place the ballot inside the return envelope and seal it.
5. In the upper left corner of the return envelope, print and sign your name. Write your Village address if it is different from the mailing address shown on the label. The printed name and signature must be a person whose name appears on the deed as owner of record. If you do not wish to provide your signature, your ballot may be validated by hand delivering to the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road, and verified with a current MVF Activity Card.
6. Only one ballot may be submitted per private dwelling unit. If duplicate ballots arrive, the ballot with the earliest postmark will be considered valid, unless it is personally withdrawn by the voter and another ballot is re-submitted.
7. All ballots must be received at the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road, by 5 p.m., **Friday, March 20, 2020**.
8. Ballots will be counted **March 21, 2020**, 9 a.m. at the MVF Office, with results announced immediately following.
9. The successful candidates will be introduced at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Montgomery Village Foundation, Inc., Thursday, **March 26, 2020** at the North Creek Community Center at 8 p.m.
10. *ATTN:* Management Companies: Contact MVF to confirm that you are the agent of record if owners designate the management company to vote on their behalf.

These procedures are required by the Election Committee in order to determine those eligible to vote and to ensure authenticity of voting. Any deviation from these procedures will result in disqualification of your ballot.

Approved by the MVF Board of Directors 10/26/06

Reaffirmed 9/25/07, 9/25/08, 9/24/09, 9/22/11, 10/25/12, 9/26/13, 10/23/14, 10/15, 9/16, 9/17, 9/18, 9/19

**Montgomery Village Foundation  
Annual Meeting**

✂  
Thursday, March **26, 2020**  
North Creek Community Center  
7:45 p.m.

1. Introduction of Board and Staff
  - Glenn Gargan, President
2. Annual Statement by MVF President
3. Announcement of Annual Election Results and Introduction of Newly Elected Board Members
  - Pamela Bort, Chair  
MVF Election Committee
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Foundation Recognitions and Awards
6. Question and Answer Period
7. Adjournment – light refreshments

**MVF Board of Directors' Message**

February 2020

Dear Montgomery Village Foundation Member:

Please review the enclosed election material carefully, consider the information printed in the February 7 issue of the *Village News*, take advantage of the opportunity to meet with the candidates individually on February **27** at North Creek Board Room, and vote for the three candidates whom you believe will best represent you in MVF affairs. Your ballot must be received at the MVF Office by March **20, 2020**, 5:00 p.m. Decisions made by the MVF Board have substantial influence on the quality of life for Village residents. MVF is responsible for:

- Enforcement of architectural standards;
- Maintenance and operation of parks, pools, tennis courts and community centers;
- Representing Village interests to County and State governments; and
- Management and covenant services for Village homeowners' associations.

We hope you will join us at the Annual Meeting on March 26, 2020 to learn about the status of our community and discuss your interests with fellow residents, Board members and MVF staff.

Sincerely,  
MVF Board of Directors

**MONTGOMERY VILLAGE FOUNDATION, INC.  
2020 VOTING INFORMATION  
FOR OWNERS OF PRIVATE DWELLING UNITS**

1. For your ballot to be valid, assessments (including administrative costs, interest, Capital Contribution Fee or any legal fees) must be current through December 31, **2019** (paid by February **29, 2020**.)
2. Vote for no more than three candidates including write-ins.
3. To keep your ballot secret, please do not sign the face of the ballot.
4. Place the ballot inside the return envelope and seal it.
5. In the upper left corner of the return envelope, print and sign your name. Write your Village address if it is different from the mailing address shown on the label. The printed name and signature must be a person whose *name appears on the deed* as owner of record. If you do not wish to provide your signature, your ballot may be validated by hand delivering to the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road, and verified with a current MVF Activity Card.
6. Only one ballot may be submitted per private dwelling unit. If duplicate ballots arrive, the ballot with the earliest postmark will be considered valid, unless it is personally withdrawn by the voter and resubmitted.
7. All ballots must be received at the MVF Office, 10120 Apple Ridge Road, by 5:00 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2020.
8. Ballots will be counted March **21, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. at the MVF Office, with results announced immediately following.
9. Meet the winning candidates at the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Montgomery Village Foundation, Inc., Thursday, March **26, 2020** at the North Creek Community Center at 7:45 p.m.
10. *ATTN: Management Companies:* Contact MVF to confirm that you are the agent of record if owners designate the management company to vote on their behalf.

*These procedures are required by the Election Committee in order to determine those eligible to vote and to ensure authenticity of voting. Any deviation from these procedures will result in disqualification of your ballot.*

Large print copies of the Ballot Summary Statement and this notice are available upon request. Please call 240-243-2331, e-mail [mconroy@mvf.org](mailto:mconroy@mvf.org), or come to the MVF office to make your request.

## **GUIDELINES FOR BALLOT COUNTING**

The following are general procedures for MVF ballot counting on **Saturday, March 21, 2020**.

All Election Committee members and approved ballot counters shall report to the MVF Office at 8:30 a.m. Ballot counting will begin at approximately 9 a.m., immediately following orientation and training for ballot counters.

Ballot counting will be conducted in the reception area of the MVF office. Only Election Committee members, approved ballot counters and authorized MVF staff shall be permitted behind the reception counter. Members, candidates and the press are welcome to observe ballot counting from the public area of the reception room provided that they remain quiet and do not otherwise disturb the work of the counters.

### **PROCEDURES**

#### **OPENING OF MAILERS**

1. Ballot envelopes shall be opened by MVF staff or authorized counters.
2. Ballots shall be removed from envelopes and placed face down in a manner to ensure secrecy of the vote. The envelopes shall be collected and retained by MVF staff or authorized counters.
3. Contents, other than MVF ballots, shall be given to staff for proper disposition.
4. Due to space limitations, all ballots shall be opened by MVF staff or authorized counters before ballot counting begins.
5. Ballots shall be distributed to the ballot counters by the Election Committee Chairperson or the designee of the Chair.

#### **COUNTING OF BALLOTS**

1. Ballots shall be counted using three computers.
2. Prior to ballot counting, an election results report shall be generated to verify that the system is empty.
3. Counters shall work in pairs with an additional person acting in an oversight capacity. One counter will read the name of the candidate; one will enter the vote using a master ballot; and each will verify the vote prior to entering the vote into the database.

4. Ballot counters shall bring any questionable ballots to the attention of the Election Committee Chairperson. Those ballots with more than three votes shall be disqualified. Questionable ballots will be accepted or rejected based on the decision of the Election Committee. Rejected ballots shall be retained.
5. If an error should occur while entering the vote, the Election Committee Chairperson shall be notified immediately.
6. If a ballot indicates a write-in vote(s), all votes, other than the write-in votes, shall be recorded. Those ballots will be set aside; MVF staff will record the write-in votes at the conclusion of ballot counting.
7. "Readers", "Operators" and "Observers" shall rotate as necessary to avoid fatigue.
8. The Election Committee shall monitor the ballot counting process to ensure fairness and accuracy of counting.
9. After each batch of ballots is counted, the ballots shall be collected and secured by the Election Committee Chairperson or designee.

#### **BALLOT TALLY**

1. MVF staff shall tally the ballots electronically and print the election results report.
2. The Election Committee shall sign the election result report and announce the winners.

#### **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

1. Election Committee may conduct a summary review of the election and/or ballot count to make brief notes for consideration in future election cycles.



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September 6, 2019

## MEMORANDUM

TO: MVF Election Committee

FROM: Mike Conroy, Assistant Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: Candidates' Forum Alternatives

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**Background:** As part of the MVF Board of Directors Election process each year, the Election Committee affords candidates several opportunities to engage with residents and express their positions on any number of Village issues. This includes information printed in the *Village News* and online, Meet and Greet events and the annual Candidates' Forum.

Unfortunately, for several years, the Candidates' Forum has seen poor and severely declining attendance. While inclement weather and event rescheduling may play a small factor in the low attendance, even the 1-hour+ video (for resident convenience) has low viewership. The format and timing for this avenue of engagement has gotten stale, despite all efforts to keep the community engaged.

**Staff Recommendation:** The MVF Board, staff and Election Committee have discussed changing the way candidate information/answers from the forum is shared with the public. Staff is suggesting replacing the Candidates' Forum with candidate video interviews using a standard set of questions. This format will allow for an abbreviated time frame, one-on-one interaction with candidates, and flexibility for candidates' schedules (rather than requiring they attend the forum without the possibility of proxy statements should they not be able to attend).

The attached information is a basis to start discussion and is open for modification during the discussion process.

**Action Needed:** Recommend a new video interview format for candidates to engage with residents, including a standard set of questions for each candidate to answer and guidelines for length of answers, to the MVF Board of Directors for approval.

MC



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## Candidate Video Interview Guidelines

- Candidates must schedule a convenient time with staff between **February 10 and February 14** to conduct the interview. Each interview will take between 30 and 45 minutes to conduct. Candidates will not be able to submit their own videos.
- Candidates will be provided a list of questions (approved by the Election Committee) in advance in order to prepare responses. For conciseness of overall interview, responses are suggested to be approximately 60 seconds or less.
- The interviewer may edit or rephrase a question, ask the candidate to summarize his/her remarks, correct misinformation, or take any other action needed to ensure the smooth and orderly progress of the interview.
- The interviewer will make an effort to ensure that all candidates are treated equitably by asking the same questions and soliciting appropriate responses. Candidates may be asked to repeat an answer to correct on-camera presence, but will not be coached on their response or be given answers to any questions.
- The interview will be video recorded. A summary transcript will be published in the *Village News*, and the video will be posted online, accessible via [www.montgomeryvillage.com](http://www.montgomeryvillage.com).

## **MVF Board Candidate Video Interview Questions**

1. Please state your name, length of residency and area of the Village where you live.
2. Why are you interested in serving on the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors?
3. In what other ways have you been involved in Village affairs/service in the community?
4. In your civic, professional or personal background, what experience do you feel qualifies you for a position on the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors?
5. What do you consider as priority items to be addressed by the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors?
6. What proposals do you have to assist in implementing your priority concerns?
7. Montgomery Village is a very diverse community. Explain how you might engage residents of different backgrounds in community affairs.
8. The Village is also home to many species of wildlife, and the MVF Board has adopted an Environmental Policy which includes the coexistence with wildlife in the community. Do you support this policy and how would you work to uphold it?
9. What do you see as the future of Montgomery Village and what are your ideas for fostering that into reality?

### **Questions for the Village News**

1. In your civic, professional or personal background, what experience do you feel qualifies you for a position on the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors?
2. What do you consider as priority items to be addressed by the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors"?
3. What proposals do you have to assist in implementing your priority concerns?

### MVF Election Calendar 2019-2020

9/11/19 Wednesday	Nominating Committee Mtg.	Review committee procedures Review Guidelines for Applicant and application packet Review VN "Call for Candidates" Review Nominating Committee Guidelines
9/12/19 Thursday	Election Cmt. Meeting	Review committee procedures Review election and voting procedures Review validation process Review Election Committee Guidelines
9/26/19 Thursday	Board Meeting	Approve election calendar Discuss candidate questions for VN Approve Guidelines for Applicants Approve Election and Voting Procedures
11/8/19 Friday	<i>Village News</i>	First "Call for Candidates" Applications available online and at MVF office
12/6/19 Friday	<i>Village News</i>	Final "Call for Candidates"
1/10/20 Friday	<i>Village News</i>	Nominations close - 5 p.m.
1/14/20	Nominating Committee Deadline - receipt of non-managed condo homeowner lists/multi-family requests for ballot	Meet with applicants/Board members
1/23/20 Thursday	Board Meeting	"Meet the Candidates" event - 7 p.m. Receive slate of candidates Approve ballot format
2/7/20 Friday	<i>Village News</i> Ballots Mailed	Pull-out Election section (matrix of candidate info, questions)
2/21/20 Friday	Website	Candidate video interviews released
2/27/20 Thursday	Board meeting	"Meet the Candidates" event - 7 p.m.
3/6/20 Friday	<i>Village News</i>	Reminder to return ballots and watch video interviews
3/20/20 Friday	MVF Office Election Cmt. Meeting 7 p.m.	Balloting closes - 5 p.m. Validate ballots Review ballot counting procedures
3/21/20 Saturday	Election Committee Ballot Count	Count ballots and publish results online
3/26/20 Thursday	Board meeting	Report from Election Committee Annual Meeting
4/3/20 Friday	<i>Village News</i>	Publish election results Annual Meeting summary