

**MINUTES**

**ADVISORY RESIDENT VOTING COMMITTEE**

**SENIOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM**

**220 Grace Church Street**

**VILLAGE OF PORT CHESTER, NEW YORK**

Meeting held Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:00 PM

**PRESENT:**

Richard Abel  
Celene Betancur  
Joanne Cammarota  
Rogelio Chit-Vargas  
Bea Conetta  
Gonzalo Cruz  
Mary Edwards  
George P. Ford Jr.  
Leo Garces  
Alexander Garcia

Gregg Hamilton  
Carole Harnoff  
Jody Helmle  
Kayode Howard  
Richard Hyman  
Tom Kissner  
Keith Morlino  
Raul E. Ortuño  
Heather Paul  
Alex Payan

Dennis Pilla  
Jack Robinson  
Angelo Rubino  
Lou Russo  
Zeltzin Sanchez  
Debra Scocchera  
Scott Treusdell  
Rose Varbaro  
Aldo Vitagliano  
Paul Zaccagnino

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Village Clerk Janusz R, Richards

Trustee Gregory K. Adams

Westmore News: Jananne Abel

Lohud: Gabriel Rom

Dr. Robert Smith

**ABSENT:**

Joan Grangenois-Thomas

Joseph Lodato

The Committee asked for the method of electing co-chairs to lead the committee and a recording secretary. (Their roles were also discussed and...) We decided to nominate members for the positions and the vote on them.

Chair Nominations:

- Joan Grangenois-Thomas
- George Ford
- Richard Abel (withdrew)
- Gregg Hamilton
- Aldo Vitagliano (withdrew)
- Jack Roberson (withdrew)

Secretary Nominations

- Raul E. Ortuño

Raul Ortuño was appointed of the Committee by unanimous affirmation.

Village Clerk Janusz R. Richards distributed ballots containing the three nominees then collected and read them out loud while displaying each ballot to the room. Joan Grangenois-Thomas and Gregg Hamilton were elected co-chairs.

The Committee posed the question about proxy votes for absent members and the Clerk explained that no Committees in the Village permitted proxy voting, so he advised against it in this case. However, the Clerk raised an issue: would the Co-Chairs be allowed to vote on motions raised within the Committee? By affirmation, the Committee approved of the Co-Chairs having voting rights.

**MOTIONS:**

George Ford put forth a motion to ask the Board of Trustees to get a legal opinion from a qualified expert as to whether the Village can consider returning to an At-Large voting method or any plurality voting system. Seconded by Richard Abel.

CO-CHAIR GREGG HAMILTON objected to the resolution stating that it would be irresponsible to suggest a voting method that could trigger a fresh lawsuit. Committee members pointed out that Gregg is not a lawyer (and thus not qualified to judge what is legal or not and thus what might trigger a fresh lawsuit).

Ayes: 14

Noes: 8

#### Motion Passes

Richard Hyman put forth a motion, seconded by Richard Abel, to meet on Thursday, March 8, 2018 at 7:00 PM. Unanimously voted YES.

#### Motion Passes

Jack Robinson recognizing that there was varied knowledge and understanding of the Village background and election system options within the Committee. So, he put forth a motion, seconded by George Ford, for an educational session to be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Senior Center. Dennis Pilla will ask a representative of Fairvote.org to lead this educational session.

Ayes: 17

Noes: 0

#### Motion Passes

George Ford put forth a motion, seconded by Keith Morlino, to seek a legal opinion from a qualified expert as to whether it would be legal for the Village to implement an election based on any type of at-large voting. Gregg Hamilton pointed out that Cumulative Voting is, in fact, a form of at large voting, as is Ranked Choice voting (and limited voting could be also)

George Ford restated his motion, and it was seconded by Keith Morlino, asking the Board to seek an opinion as to whether the Village could implement an at-large plurality election format whereby six Board seats would come up for election simultaneously.

Ayes: 12

Noes: 14

#### Motion Fails

CO-CHAIR GREGG HAMILTON requested a motion to ask the BOT to extend the deadline for the Committee's report from April 2<sup>nd</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion was seconded by Richard Abel.

Ayes have it.

Motion passes.

Meeting ended at 9:10 pm

