

Ogden Dunes General Code Review Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 19, 2019 - 7:00 PM Town Hall

Member	Present	Absent		Member	Present	Absent
Richard Meister, Chair	X			Jim Slawinski	X	
Ken Thompson, Sec	X			Mike Teeling	X	
Connie Collins		X		Nate Ball, TC Member	X	
Julia Hoham		X		Doug Cannon, TC Member	X	
David Hollar		X				

Meeting called to order at 7:09p

Approval of Minutes of January meeting – Minutes seconded and approved as written by unanimous consent.

Old Business:

1. **Fire Works Ordinance** - at least we should clarify the existing ordinance(s) due to ambiguity. The larger issue is whether we look at reducing the number of days for allowing fireworks over the 4th of July.
 - a. Will get the Marshal’s view
 - b. We should combine 92.16 with 94.17 and combine penalties
 - c. Limit commercial grade fireworks by defining the level
 - d. Limit the dates
2. **Cross walk issues** - The issue was the number and the cross-walk signs (big enough to see, small enough not to be garish). There were some concerns of the location at Shore and Tamarac and Shore and Diana balancing safety with making the area attractive. There was discussion related to reducing the speed limit down to 20 mph. The location at the end of the sand trail (on Diana and on Hillcrest). Another thought was to have all the cross walks painted but no signs on the two Shore Drive locations.
3. **Garbage Can Ordinance proposal** – Marshal wanted just to make an enforceable ordinance. The issue is keeping the garbage cans out of sight. Two issues were considered: the hiding the garbage cans and the other related to the time the garbage cans can be placed in the street and when they need to be removed. The General Code Review Committee passes this off to the Town Board.
4. **Historical Preservation and Standards Committee (HP&SC)** – i.e., the role of this committee related to the proposal by the HP&SC committee to replace mailboxes and fix some of the structures the mailboxes are located. We discussed different approaches to how to handle the request. Doug and Mike will convene to discuss.
5. **Ward base election for Town Council** – issues – we discussed the issues associated with changing the representation format as indicated below. Any changes to the map would have to be done after the census results are published.

Town Governance Elements – Ward Concepts

The concept of using a Ward form of representation seems, based on my discussions with more senior members of the community¹, to have been designed as a safeguard to balance representation throughout the community. The concern was that a body of residents with more parochial interests might run for office to further their interests over that of the best interests of the larger community. The use of wards would increase the probability of a more representative town board to represent the different demographics and psychographics (aspirations, desires, philosophies) of the residents of the community. The wards were geographically constructed deliberately to reflect some of the variations in the community.

The change in voting date to match the national elections has enhanced participation by larger percentage of the population. In addition, the use of staggered terms in Ogden Dunes election process has further supported safeguarding the concerns raised above.

¹ In addition, I talked with corporate board representatives for two for-profit organization and reviewed sources related to corporate control of boards and minority participation.

The most recent election process has found a challenge in finding an adequate pool of candidates. The cause is unclear if there was not sufficient advertising or there is a pronounced change in the desire or ability of residents to commit to the time and effort to make Ogden Dunes a high quality and well managed community. Given the concern, it may be appropriate to revise the process to solicit the community for quality candidates for town council offices. This could be accomplished by the following changes.....

1. Improve the process to advertise and encourage residents to apply to run for a town board position
2. If a ward does not have a resident that agrees to run for the ward by a particular date before the required time for candidates to submit their material for election, allow for a resident to run from any ward as an "at-large candidate pro-temp." The "at-large candidate" would run for the full or (in the case of early departure of a ward representative) remaining term in the ward. After the term has expired, the process would revert to searching for a candidate from the original ward. This process would negate the need for a change in the current ward structure and provide flexibility in addressing a situation where more than one ward may not be represented in a given election process cycle.
3. Modify the ward structure so that one resident could run "at large" each election cycle. That would necessitate reducing the number of wards from five to three and may still create a condition where a ward may not be represented in cases where there is not a candidate for that ward.
4. Eliminate the ward structure which would lead to reigniting the concerns raised in paragraph one above but, the staggered terms, would reduce the speed in which a potential parochial change may occur.

The important underlying philosophy that should be followed in our decision is making sure there is the widest level of participation possible of the diverse views of our community so that all views have an opportunity to participate in shared governance.

We discussed the different issues and decided to get feedback from the board and encourage more advertising for candidates from the residents. We will defer until we get input from the board members.

New Business: none stated

Public Comments: none

Meeting adjourned at 8:44p by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted: Ken Thompson, Secretary