

An Open Letter and Opinion from “The Advocate” to Haters  
April 11, 2021

Yikes, talk about criticism and over-reaction. Why pick on the advocate so much? Maybe I hit a nerve or pinged your guilty conscience (that’s assuming you have one). Your attempt at shaming me into conformity is not a variable in my world. You have expressed your interest in accurate information. So, let’s do something new for both of you -- look at the truth. We’ll look at some of the things you both posted yesterday during the Candidate Forum about “the advocate” and determine the accuracy of your statements. Come on, this will be fun.

It wasn’t the advocate who was sitting back and doing nothing for 4 years, as you claim. You, a past Board president and a past Board treasurer had control of the Board for those 4 years and here we are today dealing with the repercussions of your incompetence and lack of action. The Board appeared to be unable to make decisions and act. Oh, you did lots of strategizing, planning, meeting, reviewing, forming committees, forming more committees, and lots of talking about what you might do. Alas, words that will never to be applied to your tenure on the Board include accomplished, succeeded, finalized, achieved, took action, stepped up, or successfully negotiated.

All that wasted time and HOA money is more likely the cause of the disagreement in the community. But if you realized that, then you would have to accept responsibility (uh-oh, more words you seem unfamiliar with).

A piece of advice: never add arrogance to stupidity, It’s not a good look for either of you.

You say I do nothing and then you credit me with declining house sales and causing massive disagreement in the community. Please explain how I can be sitting back and doing nothing and yet cause such upheaval? Could it be you are grasping at straws to deflect your shortcomings as Board president and treasurer? Could it be you have no evidence or proof to back your allegations?

If there is “tarnishing of the community reputation” as you claim, it is due to your lack of sound business judgment and years of incompetent HOA management that tainted the community. You know you screwed up; you just can’t handle it. I know it’s difficult, but you must put your big boy pants on and face the truth.

So, blame the advocate for calling attention to your lack of good judgment and fear of taking action.

Blame the advocate for communicating information to homeowners the Board wouldn’t share because your fragile egos couldn’t handle the true narratives that displayed you in an unfavorable light.

Blame the advocate who had the guts to organize her own “Homeowner Forum” on February 9, 2020 and stepped up to meet homeowners in an open, informal face-to-face meeting. No Board members came to that meeting. You were hiding. You couldn’t handle a situation where homeowners could speak up, ask unlimited, uncensored questions, challenge answers, and openly debate. No, you hide behind your official agendas, closed meetings, and Robert’s Rules of Order.

Your cowardice was on full display when you attacked the advocacy website at the end of the October 10, 2020 Board meeting. You waited until the last minutes of the meeting to present your whiny little speech. Of course, you did not allow or accept any response from the attendees. You abruptly ended the meeting and scurried off and out of the building like frightened little rodents.

Your first year on the Board you held one informal meeting, "Coffee Hour with the Board." Let's see, when was that one and only attempt on your part to reach out and actually have an unrestricted open exchange with homeowners? Oh yeah, February 25, 2017. That's right you had one, and only one, outreach event and it was FOUR FRICKIN' YEARS AGO. So much for your regularly communicating with homeowners. Do you think you might have come up with some other ideas to reach out? NOPE. Instead, you spent the next four years limiting and avoiding communication with homeowners. You restricted homeowner use of the Message Board, used only "no reply" emails (cause why in heavens would you want to hear back from a resident), you went from sending 19 Board Briefs in 2017 down to 4 in 2018 and 4 in 2019 and then 1 lonely Board Brief in 2020. I'm seeing an avoidance pattern. The Board avoiding communication with homeowners. There doesn't seem to be much spreading of all that accurate information and interpretations you claim to regularly communicate to all residents. It seems you two are the ones who have been a bit lazy in openly communicating with homeowners.

"Keyboard advocate" – cute name, bet it took you and your toadies a while to think that one up. (I kind of like it...it has a certain ring to it.) Name calling is always a nice, mature touch to highlight your sad defense mechanisms and lack of wit. Names aside, "the advocate" is not sitting back and simply criticizing. True story: she has run for the Board, applied to be on committees, and offered to assist the Board. She has been denied all those things. Once through a sleazy election, then her committee application was ignored and never acknowledged, and, finally, her many offers to help assist the Board were ignored. She was prevented from participating in the community. What other choice did she have but to start a website to advocate for homeowners? It's not that difficult to understand, you continually reject and demean someone, and they will still find a way to contribute to the community. You may not like it, but no one really cares what you want. Both of you are all-talk, no-action hypocrites who like to bully people, especially female homeowners. This may be hard for you to hear...but you are not the least bit intimidating. Particularly from an intellectual standpoint.

Please carry on as the ethically challenged, unexceptional mid-level bureaucrat you will always be. The shared dismissive arrogance with your Board pal is a delusion to behold. You can continue spewing your virtue signaling platitudes and creating false narratives. You can continue criticizing and punishing those who do not submit to your B.S. That is why Sewickley Ridge needs homeowner advocates and an advocacy website. Of course, this is all just my opinion.

So, keep the criticism coming. It's how I know I'm doing everything right.

P.S. No need to respond, I know how much you hate two-way communication with homeowners.

Sincerely,

Peggy McGannon