

WHY I AM THE BEST CHOICE FOR LAKES VILLAGE DIRECTOR

As I sat down to answer this question, I remember receiving an unsolicited email from a resident who threw her support behind me. She said: "I look for openness, willingness to ask questions and answers, ability to weigh both sides of an issue and deal transparently and with integrity. Lakes Village needs a representative that is respected, who weighs the issues and their impact on individual members and the club as a whole, with no pre-conceived agenda." I was humbled by such kind words of support. This sums up my philosophy on what a great director should be.

When I started my journey here at Colonial nearly six years ago, my wife saw an email about the club seeking members for the Facilities Committee. That committee is a bit different than all others in Colonial as it seeks participants who have technical, construction or procurement experience. Not long after I became a member, I remember looking at the committee's standard contract forms, and not being able to help myself as a lawyer, drafted some suggestions for revisions. I volunteered to work on a design for a storage structure, and several other items when volunteers were sought. Next thing I know, I was asked if I would serve as chairperson. I didn't think I was ready, but after being cajoled by our Board liaison I undertook the challenge.

What a great group of people I had on the committee. When it came time to work on the Master Plan, I was told by our board president that we needed fast response times. I committed to a 3 - 4 day turnaround, and we met that every time when the pressure was on. Having both experience as an engineer and construction lawyer, it was certainly fortuitous timing for the Master Plan project. I also remember when the Golf Course project was in the design process, and concerns were raised about whether to bond the project. No one asked me, but I felt it was my duty to explain the process and provide alternatives. This saved tens of thousands of dollars, but still provided a method to protect CCC.

When I attended a few meetings of the Landscape Committee, I saw that the potential vendor had submitted a draft contract. Again, without being on the committee, I did a draft review raising concerning clauses. Eventually, many of those changes were adopted by the vendor after review by our legal counsel. Money saved for CCC. I gladly provided my local recreation board advice when asked, as they were negotiating with the landscape vendor.

When called upon for the Ad Hoc Master Plan Committee, I answered. When the Ad Hoc Document Committee was being formed, I was asked if I would serve. I said yes. It was suggested that I put in writing every project I worked on for CCC, but there were so many I could not remember them all. We joke at our house that I work harder now than I did before I retired, except now I don't get paid. The gratitude of my Colonial neighbors is my reward.

I started attending Finance Committee meetings even before I became chair of Facilities. I was interested in learning more about the funding and expenditure processes of CCC. This would make me a better committee member. From that I learned the real work takes place here in committees. I would suggest anyone who wants to be a board member have participated meaningfully in at least one committee.

In the interim, this allowed me to interact with the management and staff of CCC, as well as committee chairs, and Board members. My good relationships with other committee chairs should insure Lakes concerns are heard in the committee and budget process. Other chairpersons, management and directors trust me.

And I can certainly work with other board members. Vincent Patti was endorsed by a Lakes coalition, but I immediately reached out to him when he became the liaison to the Facilities Committee. I spent several hours teaching him about the Facilities Committee and the processes. We both wanted to do what is right for CCC, and we have worked together toward that goal.

It pains me to see our inexperienced Lakes Directors suggesting such untested options as a means to correct CCC. That is why I want to be your experienced, open, respected and trustworthy Lakes Director. I hope you want that, too.