

Hi Mike,

Here is my information:

Name: Erica Santana

Position Desired: Director

How Long Have You Lived in BMPOA? 5 years

How have you shown an interest in/what have you done for the community since you've lived here?

When I moved to the mountain, I read about and researched Blue Mountain and the human and natural history of the land to learn about the place where I was settling into as my new home. I began to plug into the community (covid made that tough!) and attended monthly meetings as a POA member. As I met new and existing members, I encouraged them to attend meetings and foster more engagement and participation of property owners in POA business and events. I also attempted to reinstate the revision of the BMPOA Covenants, an effort that is an ongoing challenge.

I have built relationships with my neighbors and have helped families and individuals near me in various capacities (assistance to elderly, sick, and mobility compromised residents, helping part time residents with emergencies and weather-related events, information and resource sharing for new residents, etc.).

Community cleanup has been an interest of mine since I moved to the neighborhood. I participate in the VDOT roadside trash pick-up events, came up with the spring cleanup initiative, and regularly pick up trash on my weekly walks through my section of the neighborhood.

I have engaged in promoting visibility, awareness, and inclusion in county-wide changes and events that affect BMPOA residents. This included participating in the Warren County Coalition of Community Association meetings (no longer ongoing) to work with the county

on various issues affecting property associations in the county (changes to setback ordinances, complaint procedures for short term rental permits, etc.).

Since I moved to the mountain, I have conducted sundry tasks and activities to contribute to the health, safety, and well-being of the mountain and community members in everyday ways; such as participating in the woody fuel reduction efforts through the Fire Wise initiative, writing to VDOT to request more reflectors on Blue Mountain Road, writing articles for the community newsletter, supporting local independent business owners, providing wildlife damage and control consultations/recommendations to neighbors, starting the BMPOA community yoga classes, founded the Blue Mountain Book Club, etc.

**Why do you want to serve on the Board?**

My desire to serve on the Board stems from a life-long calling to servant leadership. Volunteerism is an important part of my life, and I want to extend my contributions to serving the community in which I live. BMPOA, as a sanitary district, is an extension of local government, and I have a vested interest in being part of the governing body of our district to promote a safe, healthy, serene, nature-based community and way of life on our mountain. I have many skills and talents that I believe will add value to the Board and serving POA interests and challenges.

**What do you hope to accomplish by serving on the Board?**

Blue Mountain has experienced many changes from the way it was originally built and imagined by Henri DeLongfief. Through the years, the community has evolved, and it will continue to do so. I believe the POA needs a strong vision and supporting leadership to serve the community and its diversifying interests as change continues to unfold. From what I have seen and gleaned from others, many decisions and courses of action within the POA have been situational, circumstantial, and ad hoc. I hope to contribute more strategic vision and leadership to the Board for what lies ahead for the future of our mountain landscape and community of homeowners.

I hope to contribute to future efforts to promote more procedural stability and predictability of Board business and operations. I would like to advocate for more

transparent communication and decision making on important matters such as disbursement of discretionary funds, contracts, lodge usage, and input to the County on special permit issuance. There are currently several POA committees without chairs or committee members; I hope to encourage and catalyze more community participation to fill those vacancies and serve in the roles outlined in our POA bylaws. I also hope to influence the prioritization of updating and modernizing our important community documents and procedures, to include the covenants, bylaws, and common area use plans.

**Tell us something you want the nominating committee to know.**

I moved to this mountain for its natural landscape, tranquil environment, and proximity to nature-based recreation. I am deeply committed to prioritizing the conservation of the mountain's natural resources and the preservation of the ecosystem services they provide. There is a balance to be struck between land use and land preservation, and I hope to be able to bring my professional experience to bear in service to achieving this goal.

As a sitting Board member, I hope to continue adding diverse perspectives to conversations and voicing the desires, opinions, and concerns of my fellow property owners, to whom I am obliged to represent as a community leader. I believe that decision-making benefits when it is led by a set of strategic goals, strengthened by healthy discourse between stakeholders, and executed in good faith for the shared good of all parties.