

D. Kleine

Reston Home Owners Association

January 6, 1972

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council

FROM: Douglas Kleine

SUBJECT: RHOA ELECTIONS--COMPOSITION OF TOWN COUNCIL

The Bylaws provide for election of RHOA Directors on April 11. Well before then, probably by our February Town Council meeting, we must make decisions about the composition of the Town Council and election procedures.

I have set out below several alternatives to the present Town Council. Unstated, but common to all, is that renters should be permitted to serve and that the president of the council not be chosen by Gulf Reston, Inc. The fact that all three council presidents were neither directly elected by the voters nor publicly chosen by a majority of the council has made the job more difficult and frustrating than it need be. A third change that must be made is that all council terms be staggered, or that Village Councils be elected in one year and the Town Council in the alternate year.

I. Alternatives for composition of the Town Council--

A. Town oriented Town Council:

1. Five town-wide seats.
2. RHOA Board expanded to fifteen (15)--ten (10) from Gulf Reston and five (5) councilmen.
3. Council could have seven (7) seats including two (2) village representatives.

B. Village oriented Town Council:

1. All five (5) council seats divided among the Villages, or
2. Four (4) council seats divided among the Villages with the president running town-wide.
3. Board seats filled by council, or let Gulf Reston hold all nine (9) seats.

C. Modification of present Town Council:

1. Election for the three RHOA Board seats be town-wide. Seats filled according to proportional representation system (PR) or simply specify that no more than two persons from any one Village may be elected to Board seats.

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Page two

2. Village representatives be directly elected by voters of each village, rather than by Village Councils.

II. Election Procedures--

RHOA Directors must be elected at the membership meeting in April. Assuming a citizen election is held prior to the meeting, we must find a way to ensure that the poll results are not overturned at the annual meeting either by those who lost at the polls or by those who want to create a turmoil. Thus one or both of the following procedures must be adopted:

- A. Gulf Reston agree to cast its votes at the annual meeting in support of the poll winners.
- B. All candidates pledge to honor the poll results and to turn their supporters out to the annual meeting to back the winners. Candidates winning terms at the polls of less than three years on the Town Council should also agree to resign from the RHOA Board at the end of the council term. The vacancy could then be filled by the remaining directors as in 1971.
- C. Since Gulf Reston doesn't agree that the Town Council is a committee of Directors, forget about the annual meeting and let those who attend choose the RHOA directors. This would set up a bi-cameral system of the RHOA Board and the Town Council with no overlap. The analogy would be the House of Lords and Parliament. The Town Council still could run RHOA subject to Board veto.

These suggestions and your own ideas should receive Village and Town Council attention next month.

DK:em

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