

Schism within Woodlake Property Owners Association Leadership

The 2020 annual election of Woodlake Property Owners Association Board of Directors members occurred 29 March 2020. Woodlake property owners overwhelmingly re-elected 2 veteran board members (Eric Smith and Michael Grand) they knew were doing a good job. Mr. Smith and Mr. Grand were also serving as officers of the Association (Vice President and Treasurer) at the time.

Although Sherry Lovorn's bid to unseat one of the 2 veteran re-elected candidates failed decisively during the election, she was nonetheless elected by the board, itself, to fill a board seat recently vacated by the death of board member Bruce Stokes. Ms. Lovorn was also appointed to serve as Secretary of the Association. All was still working smoothly at that point.

Although veteran leadership was still intact after the election (Bill King--president; Eric Smith--vice-president; Michael Grand--treasurer) and functioning effectively as it has for the past several years, that state of affairs crumbled during the past few months. The 3 most junior members of the board of directors began pushing for changes in the way the Association conducted business. Effective current priorities and procedures were relentlessly challenged. With the 3 newest members of the board pushing for new methods of doing business and the 3 veteran board members defending vetted and successful administrative practices, the board slid into turmoil.

The 3-time reelected president of the Association, Bill King, seeing no way to resolve the gridlock, which was in effect ignoring his leadership, resigned as president. King remained as a board member, however. The vice-president, Eric Smith, almost immediately resigned as both officer and board member, creating another empty seat on the board of directors. At this point, the 3 junior board members were clearly in charge. The 2 remaining senior members (King and Grand) nominated Connie Stokes (wife of the late Bruce Stokes) to fill the vacancy created by Smith's resignation. Some of her qualifications are listed [HERE](#). However, the junior members of the board, to this date, have refused to vote on admission of Connie Stokes to the board. There have been no other nominated, vetted, and accepted candidates for the position.

Does this all sound like a mess to you? Currently, there is no president; no vice-president; and a vacant board position with no effort to fill that position with a nominated, qualified, and ready-to-go candidate. Who's in charge? At least our veteran treasurer is still in charge of your funds. Tell your board of directors to quit hampering, blocking, and thwarting and get back to work for the sake of us property owners.

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