

From: Mt Gretna Campmeeting Association <office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org>
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2024 10:57 AM
To: office@mtgretnacampmeeting.org
Subject: Final email re Special Meeting



Camp Connect

A Communication of the Mt. Gretna Campmeeting

Dear Community, this is our last communication before the Bylaw vote. We have put together some of the most frequently asked questions and the answers. Please remember we all live here too and would never do anything to jeopardize our beloved community.

REMINDER: Please register for the upcoming public meeting on May 21 regarding the Bylaws update.

In the meantime, here's a brief rundown of the top questions we've received with answers.

QUESTION: I'm a cottage owner. Only I can vote, right?

ANSWER: Let us be very clear: it is **not** our intention to allow renters to vote. All of the attorneys who have read our proposed changes agree that the language of the proposed Bylaws does not allow renters to vote. The language of the proposed Bylaws acknowledges that residents who may not be included on a property deed (because their spouse is the owner), or those who are long-time renters, are still important members of our community and should be allowed to contribute their energies to committees and other volunteer work. That spirit of inclusivity and volunteerism is something we want our Bylaws to reflect.

QUESTION: Are we canceling the Summer Picnic and the Annual Meeting?

ANSWER: No, we're just moving it to a later date and there will still be a community picnic in the Summer. Moving the date of the annual meeting doesn't threaten transparency. It is very simply a kindness to allow all our community members to enjoy the short summer season in Mt. Gretna with less Association work, transitioning the considerable preparation work for the staff and Board to the fall.

Zoom-style meetings are the new norm for most non-profit boards and annual meetings. Everyone who can attend in the summer can also attend in the fall. No one is excluded by this change, and it does not prevent anyone from speaking.

QUESTION: How public has this process been?

ANSWER: VERY public. For the past four months, members of the community have been involved throughout our process, through the reading of drafts, submission of questions and suggestions, and more. And every comment made by the community has been reviewed by the Board and published online. Every subsequent Board meeting has also been open to the public too. Our community has been run by a board since its inception so that is who has led the effort. It is the nature of board-run organizations to undertake work on behalf of the community. We've truly listened.

QUESTION: Why do it all at once?

ANSWER: There are a lot of changes in this set of revisions. Some are mandated by law - and in fact, the Board could just make those changes without holding a vote. Some are very trivial corrections; some are more complicated. But it was the Board's judgment that collecting them all together with lots of community input and discussion for each necessary item was the most efficient way to do this, as opposed to a lengthy series of separate revisions and re-filings, which would have increased our legal expenses and exhausted the patience of the community to be engaged in the effort.

QUESTION: Is our 501(c)4 status at risk?

ANSWER: In short and emphatically, NO. **Throughout the entire process we worked closely with two expert attorneys. Neither one ever advised that we were in danger of losing our 501(c)4 status; some of the changes we're making in the Bylaws are in fact to keep us in compliance with those statutes.**

QUESTION: Will the change in voting make it easier for a developer to take greater control of the community?

ANSWER: That's highly unlikely. The combined safeguards of staggered board member elections, zoning, the public nature of such a development initiative, and the Board's abiding determination to never support language that would harm the community all work against actions that would deeply and irreversibly change the Camp Meeting that we all love so much.

Special Meeting Registration

Web Page w/ Community Comments

Email with Telephone Call-In Instructions

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