

All residents' voices should be heard

By Adrian Byram

District G candidate

Within Rossmoor your voice should be heard, and it is the GRF Board's responsibility to ensure it is heard. As a GRF Board member one of my three priorities will be to find better ways for effective two-way communication between residents and the Board.

At present, the ways Rossmoor's owners and the Board can interact are far too limited and restrictive. The only way for a resident to be heard is by sending an email or appearing at the residents forum at the beginning of each Board meeting. Neither of these are dialogs – you try to cram what you have to say into two minutes, the Board members sit there passively, and, by the rules of the game, do not respond.

There is a good reason why Board meetings are conducted this way. Long discussions with multiple residents on a variety of topics are simply not feasible during a regular Board meeting.

But that doesn't absolve the Board from interacting and listening. A couple of ideas we could try:

1. A forum in the Rossmoor News with a couple of pages each week. Residents and Board members could suggest topics to discuss, write up their thoughts and responses, and debate the topics in writing for all to see, with debates taking place over several weeks.

2. Regular resident-Board meetings for the sole purpose of discussion. A professional meeting facilitator might be employed to guide the meeting; break-out discussion groups could delve into specific topics with individual Board members.

Having your voice heard does not mean your voice will – or should – prevail. Rossmoor's residents rarely all agree and conflicting objectives need to be balanced. But the Board has a duty to take all voices and facts into consideration and then to explain the rationale behind its decisions.

Editor's note: Candidates running for the GRF Board are permitted to submit up to four articles (maximum of 300 words each) about issues pertaining to Rossmoor and its residents. Adrian Byram is running for director in District G.