

RIIA Gate Committee

January 9, 2023 07:00

Meeting Notes

07:05 Call to Order

Members Attending: Andy Flood, Matt Hurley, Charlotte Crain, Jim Cushing, Pete Philly, Kate Larsson, Gene Barkin, Cliff Quisenberry, Barbra Daelman

Approval of Minutes: November minutes approved

Unfinished Business

Charlotte brought up the idea of a waiver for USDA's position. Discussions continued in new business

New Business

Response from USDA: Andy summarized response from USDA. That their position remains that a privacy gate would violate the terms and conditions of our loan. Copy of letter available if anyone needs it. Kate noted that additionally our by-laws/CCR's do not allow for a gate. Cliff asked if there were any comments by the USDA regarding our CCR's when the application was reviewed. None that affected the loan application

Next Steps: Andy asked should we continue having the committee continue working to clarify the USDA opinion, or research on our own? Charlotte recommended keeping the committee as it provides transparency and an open forum for residents who want to participate. Kate shared there were two prongs to the issue; the USDA position and that our by-laws prohibit the installation of a gate. Matt explained that the by-laws were changed in anticipation of applying for another USDA loan to re-pave the roads after the bridge loan was executed.

Pete suggested looking into options including an exception to the rules, or refinancing the bridge loan.

Cliff: There are still unanswered questions with the USDA response. Is there an alternate location that could be explored?

Jim: Unique situation- this bridge leads nowhere as it is essentially a dead end. Might be a possible angle for an exception. Additionally, USDA might not be happy if we revert the by-laws back to the original language.

Charlotte: On the topic of refinancing,, how do we justify a large assessment after all the money that has already been applied to the loan?

Barbra: Need crime statistics to support justifying a gate. Matt noted people have not reported all of the thefts so the data is inaccurate.

Cliff: Can we get the word out to the members to report crimes on the island?

Matt: Easy to do online reporting. Will get the link out to the members.

Andy: Recommend scheduling a meeting with Koni (USDA Olympia) in a couple of weeks, giving us time to organize our questions. Will check with Koni and see what her schedule is. Recommend submitting our questions ahead of time.

Jim: Also note one of the USDA's comments was that there were businesses on the Island, maybe get their support for the gate.

Kate: Is the HOA a 501C3? Charlotte No

Meeting adjourned.