

TOWN HALL MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 @ 8 PM

Below are notes that include what we received from the Vice President of the Board, who is also currently filling in for the Secretary until one is elected.

- One community member, Beth Lipston, asked how she can contact the Board to recommend potential members. It was expressed that the Board has not always responded to past contacts. We explained that she can email the Board at board@dhhsc.org and share her recommendations. Timothy Spires shared that Sorenson's Signmail feature on videophones can be utilized for the community to leave messages that can then be accessed by the Board members.
- There was a discussion about how to access this email because recently the Board has not had access due to turnover. The account password will need to be reset.
- It was suggested that the Board members have their photos on the DHHSC website and their positions updated.
- One community member, Timothy Spires, asked why it has taken so long to work on the Bylaws. He explained that he had to resign from the Board due to a conflict of interest (his wife becoming an employee of DHHSC), and at that time, our Board Treasurer (who is now Board President) had said he will guide the Board on how to write and update DHHSC's bylaws because they were very old. Now, almost two years later, the bylaws are still not done, and Timothy is concerned about the delay. Our Board President explained that the bylaws are being done in three phases. The first two were recently done, but with the recent resignations of our Board President and Vice Presidents, work on the bylaws got delayed, but the Board will complete the third phase within the next six months.
- Timothy also asked why the Board is not following parliamentary procedures, and our Board President explained that while it is not mandatory, it is a highly recommended practice, and the Board needs to meet and review the procedures. A discussion began regarding a recommended reading on the book called "Bummy's Successful Meeting Procedures: A Parliamentarian's Basic Guide" by Bummy Burstein. Timothy has loaned the book to DHHSC and believed that Dr. Janice Smith Warshaw, past Board President, may have the book. Timothy expressed hope that it will be returned to DHHSC. It was noted that a video of the book is available for download on Dawn Sign Press's website.
- One community member, Skippy Sumner, asked if the Board has considered going on a retreat to learn and review the procedures, and our Board President said they will plan on doing one in the near future.
- Timothy shared his concerns about Board members not completing their term(s) and half-jokingly said that the Board should consider putting a Wall of Shame in DHHSC's Community Room.
- Skippy shared concerns about low attendance on Zoom events, including through his work at California Telephone Access Program (CTAP), and he is excited that his work will soon start offering workshops on how to use Zoom. He has been offering iPhone trainings, which Michelle Bronson and Harvey Bradley (from DHHSC) recently attended, and encourages more people to sign up and learn beneficial tips. He wants to know how to encourage more people to become tech-savvy.

- Timothy has noticed that more and more people from the Bay Area and Los Angeles have been moving into the Central Valley and wonders if DHHSC can get more funds from CDSS. He asks if the recent Census 2020 shows an increase in Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals residing in the Central Valley, and Michelle Bronson, Executive Director, explained that the recent Census did not collect information on whether an individual is Deaf or Hard of Hearing and that sister agencies are very protective of their funding amounts.
- The Town Hall meeting closed with the Board President and Vice President reassuring the community that they will work closely together to finish updating the bylaws, improve their communication, recruit new board members who can contribute to the success of DHHSC, create new fundraising opportunities, and support DHHSC so that the agency can thrive. Regarding the bylaws, it was also expressed that it needs to be reviewed by a lawyer after the updates are made.