

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT OPINION

Letters
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Resident provides right of reply

We welcome John McLaughlin to Sun City and laud his participation in local politics after only 2 years of residency. It took me five to wake up.

However, Mr. McLaughlin is wrong to state that "Ms. Stewart was behind the bill sponsored by state Sen. Bob Burns to make the removal of board members easier. The bill did not make it to the floor earlier this year." I was not "behind" the bill, although I supported it. The bill countered SB 1330, created by a highly-paid Recreation Center of Sun City lobbyist who wanted the RCSC removed from under Title 33, The Planned Communities Act. SB 1330 never reached committee, making the Burns bill unnecessary since the RCSC remains under Title 33.

As to making "removal of board members easier," that was passed in 2005 with the recall law, ARS 33-1813. In January, 2006, The Sun City Formula Registry delivered the requisite 1,000+ signatures to recall Norm Dickson. The RCSC board disobeyed the law by not holding an election within 30 days of receiving the petitions.

This year homeowners got a low-cost arena in which to challenge them. For a \$550-non-refundable filing fee, homeowners can file a complaint with the Department of Fire, Building, and Life Safety when boards of planned communities disobey the law.

Mr. McLaughlin stated "the RCSC board is not doing it for personal gain, but for service to the community." The board members will benefit from the \$20-million Fairway project; their clubs are there. Also, the \$250,000 "multi-use" building at Bell was put on a "fast track" by lawn-bowling club board members.

Why use the same contractors? Why is the bid committee --- comprised of 3 board members --- secret? Why is the board blasé about purging our resources? I am worried that the likes of Dickson and Company are going forward with the roof at Sundial without a settlement from the insurance company. I am concerned that the board doesn't have the compaction report on the back-filled spas. I am alarmed that the 1986 truss failure was blamed on chlorine vapors and a venting problem, yet the board moved two hot steamy spas into the pool area under

the supervision of an RCSC employee who is now long gone.

Mr. McLaughlin, like many others, asks why I don't run for the board. Someday I may but not before we change the bylaws. At present, 6 board members can remove the other three. Only "get-along, go-along" directors or "team players," stay on.

Six of nine is a "quorum" for board meetings allowing a majority to meet privately to arrange the outcome of board voting, shutting out the input and discussion of the minority. Early voting and unsupervised eagle machines (by "unsupervised" I mean supervision by board cronies and employees) makes doubtful the election of anybody not in the clique.

So far as his claim that candidates aren't running for the board because of my "harassment," that is just a joke. I'm the one who has been harassed, verbally and physically assaulted publicly, lied about, falsely accused and removed from meetings and facility usage. Who is harassing whom? The desired outcome to witnessing my public humiliation is to discourage others from challenging the board. Nobody wants to be treated the way I have been.

My opinion about the small field of candidates is that no one except board-sponsored cronies wants to work with this crowd, on the board or on the committees. Until we get some accountability, this ilk will control everything without a membership vote, spending millions on pet projects and raising assessments unequally to pay for them.

I invite John McLaughlin to look past the board's self-serving rhetoric. Help me watch them. They need watching because they have empowered themselves to use our homes as collateral for their unbridled spending.

"Letting the board do their job" without shining the light on their actions can have disastrous consequences, like a roof caving in.

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