

11/6/15 Richard A. Clarke's Response to the Letter from the Chair

As evident from the recent annual meeting package, we will be having our first contested Trustee election in recent history. I relinquished my Trustee seat last fall out of frustration with the atmosphere of inaction and procrastination prevailing at that time and with the hope that a new mix of Trustees might reinvigorate the Trustee oversight process.

The newly constituted Board was faced with a very difficult winter but has never recovered from the stress of this challenge. Until the past month, communications with residents have been virtually non-existent including the publication of a quarterly newsletter. Our web site has languished with no updated information including financials and meeting minutes.

Our landscaping program has also suffered. Tree work has been minimal and there have been no new resident initiatives conducted by the Landscaping Committee as we have done each and every year since I have served as a Trustee. These projects were accomplished at nominal cost and were not a budget challenge. Aside for the fine on-going work of Steve Judd, nothing of this sort was done by our Board or its Landscaping Committee!

I am delighted that the Board has enlisted the assistance of a new resident with financial expertise as the current members have not exercised even statutory oversight of our finances. For example, **over \$168,000 of our reserves were deposited without FDIC insurance protection in blatant violation of our By-Laws.** Every Board member has a duty to review the financial information produced by our management company yet, once Bob Waehler stepped down, I was the "Lone Ranger" in this regard while I served on the Board. Your finances require a full team involvement.

The 2014 mid-year residents meeting was abruptly cancelled without explanation and no attempt to keep residents informed was made this year. The doubling of the deductible in the Master Insurance policy was done without notice and residents waited over a month for any explanation or apology from their elected representatives. As of today, November 6, no 2016 budget information or advance Meeting presentation has been provided and I am led to believe that this may not happen at all prior to the Meeting this year.

Even the nice touches have been missing like the annual appreciation lunch for

the Vanaria team and holiday wreathes last year. Until pressed by me, no annual Alderman Candidates' Forum was scheduled. Pool rules have been totally disregarded and the pool was closed late in September, long after active usage had ceased.

While I do spend three months in Florida, I participated in all Trustee meetings by phone and even kept the minutes. Most importantly, budgets were finished and disclosed well in advance of the annual meeting, minutes and financials were posted as soon as available, numerous improvements were made and all without any increase in the operating budget over a six year period.