SVLA BOARD PRESIDENT

BRIAN BICKHART

Last month, we held our first townhall meeting regarding the acquisition of the Country Club. While feedback for this event has been overwhelmingly positive, I realize that there are still many questions to answer.

The most common question I hear is, "What will our community members get for the proposed increase in dues??" New membership levels at the club will closely resemble current membership levels, with a few needed adjustments. Currently, social members have access to all amenities at the club, with some limitations. For example: Social members are offered 12 rounds of golf a year (one round per month), however, this does not include green fees and cart fees. Social members are also offered access to tennis, with similar restrictions. All other amenities at the club are available to all members with little restriction.

We would love if we can operate the club similarly, however, the pool and fitness center, as they are currently configured, cannot accommodate the size of our community. The board is working to resolve this issue in an equitable manner so that every member will have equal access. One suggestion is a reservation system through an app, which will allow members to make reservations for the pool, gym and restaurant, as well as tee times and court times. Another idea is charging a small pay per use for the pool and gym. A more recent suggestion is moving the fitness center/gym to the community building. Regardless of what solution we agree upon, it is important to know that these details will be worked out before a proposal is sent out for the members to vote on.

Another question that has come up is about our loan amount. Because interest rates are low and SVL is financially sound, we have been offered an excellent financing option. One condition of this type of financing is lenders on an HOA loan will demand to be in the first lien position; meaning, we can only carry one loan at a time. This requires us to pay off our current water loan; which is beneficial to us, because it will allow us to avoid the balloon payment that we will be facing in 3 years on that loan, as well as locking in the low rates.

The total loan amount will be dependent on which capital improvements the community wants to see completed. I know the community would love to see the park completed. In addition, the Equestrian Center could use some renovations and the beach area could also use some improvements.

Another positive aspect of the acquisition of the club, is that SVLA will have more options regarding the water that comes into our lake. The water that is currently coming from the fish hatchery has been giving us issues recently; and if the acquisition is successful, it will give us more control over the matter.

Committees

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