

Message from the Board President for SVLA Breeze October 2014

As you read this, our Fiscal Year 2014 is coming to a close on Oct 30. We begin our new Fiscal Year (FY2015) on Nov. 1 in excellent financial condition, and we have plans for many new capital improvement projects which will be undertaken during the coming year. I'm sure you noticed the median upgrade project currently underway which will look great when completed. These projects help make SVLA a better, more desirable community, which helps all our property values, and are your assessment dollars at work.

I sometimes hear criticism that there is no opportunity for members to voice their opinion or get answers at our board meetings, or that the board members don't listen to the members. HOAs like SVLA are bound by a law in California called the Davis-Stirling Act (www.davis-stirling.com) which dictates how our board meetings must be conducted. Everything we discuss and take action on must have been published in advance of our meeting, which is why we notify the community of upcoming board meetings and publish our agendas. During the meeting, there are two separate opportunities for members to speak to the board - 1) Open forum at the beginning of the meeting on any topic, and, 2) Specific agenda items prior to the board taking a vote on each item. While the first opportunity allows the homeowner to speak on any topic, the board is not able to discuss the topic with the speaker. However, we will attempt to provide a very short answer to a specific question if possible, but it cannot become a debate or a discussion since it is not an agenda item. The second opportunity is when you would be able to speak to the board on a specific agenda item prior to our discussion and vote. Again, we will listen to your comments, and if appropriate, provide a very short answer to a specific question related to the agenda item, but it is not an opportunity to debate the agenda topic with the board.

So, how does a community member get an item on the board's agenda for discussion or action? Any member of SVLA may contact a board member or our GM to discuss a topic that may be considered for a possible board meeting agenda item. If appropriate, we will then place the item on the agenda for discussion and possible board action. A recent example of this process in action was the common-area dog-leash rules being considered for change. This was brought to a board member's attention as a community concern, who then asked that it be placed on our agenda. As a result of that agenda item, we are now in the process of changing our rules to allow dogs (on leashes) onto some SVLA common-areas. Remember, what may seem like a small change to an individual homeowner will ultimately affect all 12,000 people who live in SVLA. So, we must make sure any changes we make are good for SVLA members overall.

I think you will be pleased with our new web site (same web address as before - www.svla.com) which the staff has worked very hard to bring to us. Please check it out and let us know what you think. We sprinkled a few random typos, punctuation errors, and broken links around the new site, so please look for them and let us know if you find them.

Finally, in an effort to dispel rumors or just ask questions, I'd like to extend an invitation for residents to come to the next board meeting on October 28, an hour early at 5PM, to talk with me in an open forum about any topic they'd like, prior to the board meeting. This will be an informal gathering where I will try to answer any question on any topic that you may have. Bring the latest rumor you've heard and I will try to address it. Unfortunately, I will not be able to discuss specific issues about a particular property such as citations or fines, since this is confidential member information.

The regular board meeting will be held on October 28 at 6PM in the Community Building.

All SVLA residents are welcome to attend, but only SVLA members and associate members are allowed to speak during the public comment portions of the meeting.