

SSPORA Board Directors and Issue-Oriented Committee Members Needed!

Your neighbourhood association (Shorewood/San Pareil Owners and Residents Association [SSPORA]) needs volunteers to serve on our Board of Directors and on issue-oriented committees.

We will have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, June 23 at 7PM. According to our Constitution and Bylaws nominations for our Board are brought before this meeting, where they are acted upon by the assembled members. After the election of Directors, at the first meeting of the new Board (generally within a month of the AGM) the Board officers are chosen by the new set of Directors (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary).

There can be a maximum of nine Directors on the Board. Three or four of the serving Directors will have their names stand in nomination again at the AGM. Assuming their re-election, this leaves five or six slots which could be filled by new neighbours.

What does the Board do? Our association acts as the interface between our neighbourhood and levels of government which might be involved in issues affecting us (typically the Province and the RDN). We are also involved in issues affecting the quality of life and strength of social community within our neighbourhood. Issues which are ongoing and subject to Board activity include: neighbourhood emergency preparedness; the improvement of the intersection between Plummer Road and Highway 19A; the proposed cycling/pedestrian linkage between Rath Trevor Provincial Park and Parksville Community Park; and our own neighbourhood parks (Maple Lane Park and San Malo Park). Additional issues which the new Board could decide might deserve our attention in the future would include the proposed Provincial study of the delivery of governmental services in Area G of the RDN (which includes us) and the ongoing RDN study of flood hazard potential along the Englishman River.

What qualifications are required to sit on the Board? A prospective volunteer from our neighbourhood must be a current member of the association (membership information is available on our website [<https://sspora.ca/>], including a downloadable copy of our Constitution and Bylaws). Availability for regular attendance and participation in a scheduled monthly meeting (typically 1 to 2 hrs long) during our business season of September through June is essential. Our meetings are typically held virtually using electronic means (like Zoom). There are often a few agenda document items (distributed by email in advance) which need to be scanned over prior to a meeting. In addition, it would be a strong plus if individuals would be willing to identify community issues of greatest interest to them. The Board maintains (and can formulate new) sub-committees consisting of Directors and other interested community members dealing with particular issues. These might choose to have occasional meetings in addition to the regular meeting of the Board as a whole. This is an optimal way to ensure continual movement and progress on complex issues. The results of such occasional supplemental meetings during the year would be reported to the Board as a whole. The higher the level of commitment which is brought to the Board and these sub-committees by Directors and concerned residents the greater will be our progress and impact for the community.

It is not necessary to have been a long-time resident of the Shorewood/San Pareil community to sit on the Board. The returning Directors (who will carry forward the “institutional memory” of the association) have resided here for many years. Some new volunteer Directors might also fit into this category, bringing long experience with the neighbourhood to bear in Board discussions and work. However it would also be very valuable for individuals who are newer to the area to step forward and bring their varied perspectives to bear on our many issues. We would like very much to have a good mix of Directors, women and men of various ages and stages of life on the Board – some retired, but also some younger individuals who might be at the “family raising” stage of life, or even younger adults.

If service on the Board sounds attractive to you, please contact me by email using the address listed on our website: admin@info.sspora.ca. I will be happy to reply and attempt to answer any questions you might have.

We are looking forward to your requests to be nominated for service on our Board!

Don't have time to be a Director but still want to serve on an issue-oriented committee? There are opportunities for service on several existing committees (emergency preparedness, highway intersection improvement, neighbourhood parks) or perhaps on a newly formed committee initiated in response to another perceived community need. You would not need to stand in nomination for election at the AGM – just contact us at admin@info.sspora.ca and tell us about your interests!

Sincerely,
Dave Kerk
Chair, SSPORA Board