



## TRANSPARENT RESIDENTS UNITED

October 20, 2023

Hello Friends,

This note is coming to you from TRU (Transparent Residents United), a group of neighbors seeking positive change at Stone Ridge. We've sent out three prior rock mails hoping to bring more information to the whole community. Now that the recall election is over, we have only a short window before we're headed right into another (annual) election. We think it's worthwhile to get a little more info out to all of you.

We're happy to report that the new Board is up and running and has begun the process of community participation by resurrecting committees. Some of us in TRU are serving on committees but more people are definitely needed. The Board is looking for a chair for a Nominating Committee that will begin its work in the middle of 2024 to source new talent for our Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. Email Julia Simms at [juliasimss4@gmail.com](mailto:juliasimss4@gmail.com) if you are interested in chairing that committee.

We're not so happy to learn that the transition has not been the smoothest for the new Board, which validates the perception that there was a lack of transparency and cooperation from the previous board. Sadly, our new Treasurer, Chris Drake, as of today has not been given the checkbook and credit card for two key bank accounts. The good news is that we have an honest Board and they will seek legal advice about how to go forward. We hope that the former Board members consider what the members have asked for (a new Board) and find ways to assist this new Board instead of hindering them.

The new Board has set up a Facebook page for official dissemination of information and you can access that information by going to the page and clicking the "Like" button. That address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552767710427>

We believe that the turnout for the recall election was record-breaking, and we hope that folks stay engaged and vote in November. The annual election is even more important than the September election because all five seats are up for election, and we want to see a continuation of the positive progress being made within our community. What will happen is that the top three vote-getters will begin two-year terms and the other two will begin one-year terms. This will put us back to having a Board with staggered terms after this past contentious and confusing year. It's REALLY IMPORTANT... PLEASE VOTE!

At TRU, we hope to see a lot of support for the new Board and to have the officers kept in place so that they can lead the change that we desperately need, but by all means, vote for the folks you think will do the best job.

By the way, before the last election, we'd planned to have a live Candidate Forum, but when the Board planned a Meet the Candidates event, we dropped the idea. But the sanctioned Meet the Candidates event was brief because Anastasia Wiley's financial presentation overwhelmed the agenda, leaving the non-incumbents with only 3 minutes to speak and no time for anyone to ask questions. Gary George, a candidate who had endorsed the Community Bill of Rights, had a prior commitment and could not stay long enough to make his statement. This wasn't even mentioned. So, we've committed to giving the candidates another opportunity to speak on topics important to all of us- and you can find their (very interesting) comments on our website at: <https://www.stoneridge-tru.org/candidate-forum/>

It feels like a brand-new day and that's a great thing. We're looking toward a better future together.

-Transparent Residents United (TRU)

<https://www.stoneridge-tru.org>

P.S. In case you missed it, the recall election on 9/30 went through by a landslide, showing that two-thirds of our voters very much wanted change! At the first meeting of the new Board (10/6), the Directors voted in their officers according to votes received. We hear that Richard Stein has since delivered a letter of resignation to the Board. The Board, however, is not permitted to make this official until their Board meeting on October 28. Here are the numbers from the election:

Recall the Board?    Yes: 123        No: 55  
Richard Stein (voted in as President): 159  
Julia Simms (voted in as VP): 118  
Chris Drake (voted in as Treasurer): 106  
Mel Bettencourt (voted in as Secretary): 93  
Anastasia Wiley (voted in as Director at Large): 92

P.P.S. As a reminder, the Community Bill of Rights (CBR) is a proposed agreement between the community and the Board about how communication happens at Stone Ridge. We were frustrated at a lack of transparency with our last Board, and the CBR sets up a structure for better communication. It asks for reasonable access to financial information and seeks a community-based website, not controlled by a management company. The new Board is already taking steps to implement much of the CBR, and the following Board candidates (up for election in November) have expressed their support for the CBR: Chris Drake\*, Donna-Marie May, Gary George, Julia Simms\*, Mel Bettencourt\* and Susan Heraver.

And finally, since Marj is Chairing the Website/Communications Committee, she's wondering about the community website. What are some of the functions and attributes you'd like to have there? You can share your thoughts with Marj using the TRU Contact Form: <https://www.stoneridge-tru.org/contact-us/>

\*Elected to the current Board 9/30/23.