

After talking to an Attorney, I was advised to give a formal statement in regards to the accusations brought against me at the September meeting and to make them of record in the minutes of this meeting. Not only did he advise me to do this, but said I had the right and an obligation to the Members, so they would see all sides and alleviate any false rumors

My statement is as follows:

The third week of August, my husband Alan and I came out to the Island in preparation for the Labor Day weekend. We arrived on Friday afternoon and before the evening was over, at least five Members came by the house to welcome us back and each one of them asked what the Board was up to since they had seen the newest Member of the Board, going around the Island taking pictures of personal property.

My response was that it was not the Board who was doing this, but the Land Use Committee. Since they wanted to know why, I went on to explain that the Land Use Committee had been working on a list to identify the trailers on the Island with regards to Form 13 and the issue of gray/black water. However, the list became more than that, because it identified other personal properties that may have County Building Code violations and Health Department violations. They asked more about the list and all wanted to know if they were on the list. I encouraged them to go to the Land Use Committee meeting the following Tuesday and ask more questions. I told them that the list was sent to the Board, but the Board had not made any decisions on it, at that time.

Then Alan got very curious and asked more questions about what was on the list and how many properties were on it, so I showed the list to him. The list consisted of 17 personal property addresses, the owner of the property and the lot number, all of which are of public record and on our Island Map. In addition it had a picture of the property, which anyone can see driving past and the possible violation. None of this information was confidential. Merry Kogut, the Land Use Committee chair confirmed that the list was not a secret. It was my understanding that our Bylaws and the RCW laws of the State of Washington require that any activity that a committee is involved in, must be just as transparent as the Board Meetings and Board activities.

When Alan saw the list, he was enraged. His first comment was “you can’t support the Membership if you are going to stab them in the back.” He then said that he was going to go to the Land Use Committee meeting and voice his opinion.

The next day (Saturday), several more members came by and asked the same questions. By that time Alan was telling people about the list and encouraging them to go to the Land Use Committee meeting with him.

As soon as the Land Use Committee got requests from a few Members about attending the meeting, the Board received an email from one of the Land Use Committee Members, who is also a Board Member, stating that the information got out about the list and that they were only going to address it with, “The position of the LUC will be to say that the list is in the hands of the Board who will be providing further instructions.”

The morning of the meeting, I asked Alan not to go, since I knew he would voice his opinion. He went, and according to his statement to me, he brought up the fact that he had seen the list. He was told that the list was only a draft copy and it shouldn't have been sent out in the first place. I know that he questioned the selective manner in which the list was created and asked other questions about it. The next day, Janet Podell and Mike Graham both resigned from the Land Use Committee.

When the Board received the list there was nothing on it to indicate it was a draft and if it was sent out by mistake, the Board was not made aware of it. Either way, the list was still created by the Land Use Committee, without regards to direction from the Board. I cannot recall the Board ever making a decision for the Form 13 to go beyond the trailer list and the gray/black water issue and become more extensive. I have gone through the minutes from October 2013 to October 2014 and there was no discussion or decision about creating this type of list at any of the regular Board meetings. The only thing I can think of, is that a few Board Members and Claudia decided this outside of a Board meeting, since the statement's accusation states that "Claudia, along with the concurrence of the Board".

I did not breach the confidentiality of the Board. As an elected Board Member, my duties are to represent the Membership and follow the Bylaws and the RCW laws for Home Owner's Associations and keep everything transparent, with the few exceptions of legal matters and personnel matters. There was nothing confidential on this list as was implied, and the activities of the committee are to be transparent. I made it very clear that this list was created by the Land Use Committee and the Board had not acted on it's recommendations at that time.

It is just unfortunate that the list was ever created without full Board discussion or vote and showed no consideration for transparency or respect for Member's personal property and personal privacy, all of which are violations of the HMC Bylaws and the Charter and Mission Statement of the Land Use Committee.

Dianne DeGood