

I heard it through the

Berkeley Grapevine

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ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING

The 2017 Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 9th. Three of the seven board positions will end their terms in May and thus will require election. The corporation is seeking candidates to fill these positions. Responsibilities include regular attendance at the monthly board meetings and volunteering to act as liaison to at least one of the board sponsored committees.

We cannot lightly dismiss the time required. The work involves dealing with current issues as well as planning for the future of the corporation. This will demand a certain portion of one's free time but with the help of the volunteer committees, this can be kept to a minimum.

Shareholders who wish to run for the board may submit their resumes or letters of intent either by e-mail to rysanekone@msn.com or by post to Terrence Dineen 77-12 35th Avenue, Apt. B42, Jackson Heights, NY 11372. The deadline for inclusion in the mailing announcing the meeting is Friday, March 31st. The final deadline for submission is Friday, April 21st.

As a number of apartments have changed ownership in the last few years, the Quorum/Election Committee wishes to give a short history for shareholders new to the Berkeley.

From 1984 until 2007 no annual meeting was successful in achieving a quorum. A quorum occurs when the minimum number shares required are registered. That minimum is fifty percent of the outstanding shares plus one share. Without a quorum an election cannot be held and the Board is not required to discuss any business with the shareholders. For each of those years, since elections could not be held, the open Board positions were filled when the remaining Board members appointed people to the positions rather than any candidates being directly elected by the shareholders.

In 2008, after great effort on the part of many committed shareholders, a quorum was achieved and an election occurred. At each annual meeting from 2008 to 2015 (with the exception of 2014) quorums were achieved and elections held. **Last year, 2016, once again a quorum was not achieved due to shareholder apathy. We registered 84.99% of the required shares, falling short by 7,789 shares or, on average, 20 out of the 267 total of shareholder apartments.** The Board and its volunteers hope that all shareholders will either attend this year's meeting or submit a Proxy form if unable to attend so that an election may take place.

In order to facilitate the achievement of a quorum, the Proxy form functions in two ways. Besides the standard form wherein one may appoint another attending shareholder to register shares and vote in one's stead, there is an additional section wherein a shareholder may simply register their shares in advance of the meeting. **This action does not give 'power of attorney' to anyone else.** It merely pre-registers your shares with the intent of achieving a quorum. Your election ballot will be given to you at the meeting. Should you not attend, **no one will vote in your stead** but your shares will have been registered for quorum purposes. The Proxy forms will be mailed in April. They will also be posted for downloading on the Berkeley website and available at the mailboxes. They are simple to fill out and can be given to a neighbor; any board member; the committee chair, Mr. Dineen or to Milton Rivera, Superintendent.

There will be more to follow about the Annual Meeting in future newsletters.

Volunteers are needed to help with shareholder registration the evening of the event. Past volunteers have said they found it a good way to meet their fellow shareholders. If you wish to volunteer or should you have any questions about the meeting or the election, please contact Mr. Dineen at either of the above addresses.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN COMMITTEE

“Flowers always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine to the mind.” Luther Burbank

Although our beautiful garden is mostly asleep for the winter our garden committee is awake and busy making plans for the springtime and up and coming growing season. The pruning of the large trees and bushes has been done and the area has taken on an airier and more spacious look. Ideas are springing forth for some surprise projects to make both children and adults more invested in the garden. More to come later.

Please note when you see **RED FLAGS** put up in certain areas, usually in the spring and autumn, that means that the lawn has been newly seeded and the grass will not be able to grow if walked or stepped on at that time. Also please be aware that fragile plants are trying to survive in the stone beds lining the central garden so please do not jump or walk there.

Our garden adds to our quality of life and adds a higher value to our apartments so let us all look forward to enjoying it when the spring arrives, following the garden etiquette and let's give a large cheer to our gardeners and the committee.

CHANGES TO THE GOOGLE GROUP LISTSERVE

Changes are coming to the Berkeley Google group Listserv. They will cause messages to be grouped into different categories. This will allow for someone searching for a particular topic to reference messages by these categories. From the perspective of an author writing to the group on a particular subject (e.g. 'Garden' or 'Security'), he or she will be required fill in a Category field for the email with one or more categories selected from a drop-down menu of pre-determined values. At least one category will need to be selected in order for the message to post. Responses are exempt from this rule as they will take the category of the parent (first) post in that thread.

Please note: this change will only affect new messages and cannot be retroactively applied to old messages.

We invite the readers of this newsletter to comment on the categories already chosen for draft purposes. The list is long and is therefore not included here. A draft of the suggested category structure is at the following URL for your additions, comments, edits or feedback: goo.gl/EUQt3f.

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

The schedule of the next four Board meetings is as follows: Tuesday, February 21; Tuesday, March 21; Tuesday, April 18 and Tuesday, May 9 (**Annual Meeting**) All the meetings (with the exception of the Annual Meeting) begin at 6:30 PM. Between 6:00–6:30 PM, all shareholders/tenants may come to the Boardroom in the basement of the 77th Street Building to discuss issues with a Board member. The Board asks that you send an email in advance (**berkboard@gmail.com**) to let it know the nature of your issue and that you be succinct in your presentation. If you are not a resident of 77th Street, you may contact the

Board at the above email address to gain entrance.

Contributors to this issue were Terrence Dineen, Anne Eckhardt, Bertine Lafayette and Roy Sirengo. Anyone wishing to contribute an article/notice to the Berkeley Grapevine should contact the Berkeley Cooperative Newsletter at berkeleynewsletter@msn.com

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