

July 13, 2018

To: RCAC Bylaws Committee
From: Mordecai CAC Leadership Team
RE: Proposed RCAC Bylaws

Sam and members of the RCAC Bylaws committee,

Thank you for your work on the RCAC bylaws. We have concerns about several of the items, as they conflict with our longstanding and successful Mordecai CAC bylaws and procedures. The Mordecai CAC Leadership Team held a special meeting and have had discussion on our leadership list to address the proposed bylaws changes. We have narrowed down the issues to these three concerns:

- 1. Special Voting Rule**
- 2. Election of officers**
 - a. Designated month**
 - b. Co-chair structure**
- 3. Ballots**

1- Special Voting Rule

Currently, the MCAC bylaws **do not allow** voting on “issues of importance” at the same meeting that they are presented.

The MCAC bylaws state:

The MCAC has a long-standing tradition of not voting on any "issue of importance" at the same meeting at which the issue is presented. "Issues of importance" may be defined as issues that may positively or negatively affect the MCAC as a whole and therefore need to be advertised in the newsletter, discussed and researched for at least one month before a vote is taken at a subsequent meeting with a majority number of informed members present. This rule applies to issues of zoning approval, proposed policy

changes at the city level, changes in CAC bylaws, etc. This rule does not apply to general procedural items such as approval of the minutes, motion to adjourn, etc.

Proposal:

The MCAC would like to see the RCAC adopt this wording which would prohibit votes being taken on important issues without proper discussion and notification.

2-Election of Officers:

Currently, according to the MCAC bylaws we have a yearly election in December. One new co-chair is nominated each November, elected in December and serves a **two year term**.

The MCAC bylaws state:

There shall be two co-chairpersons of the MCAC and one secretary. Initially, one co-chair shall be elected for a one-year term and the other for a two-year term. After the first year, one co-chair shall be elected on alternate years. The secretary will be elected for a two-year term. No treasurer is currently required as monies allocated by the City of Raleigh to the CACs are disbursed directly for payment by the Community Services Department.

Officers of the MCAC shall be elected by a majority of voting members present at the scheduled meeting for the election of officers, which is the December meeting.

To elaborate, co-chairs are elected for rotating two-year terms, allowing for a “junior” co-chair to serve their first year alongside a more experienced “senior” chair with a year under their belt. At the end of their two- year term, the senior chair vacates their position, the junior becomes the senior, and a new junior chair is elected per the aforementioned schedule.

Proposal:

This process has worked successfully in the MCAC for many years, and we do not see

the proposed changes as an improvement. We would rather see a broad policy in the RCAC bylaws that would allow individual CAC's more control over their election processes. If the goal of a uniform process is to promote leadership effectiveness, openness, and **consistent turnover**, we suggest that you focus on the desired outcome (rotation of chairs/leadership) and make it clear that CACs are expected to change leadership on a regular basis, but don't dictate exactly how to do that. We do not feel it is necessary to tell every CAC to behave the exact same way when really, all we need is a consistent outcome. The language in the RCAC bylaws should require that there be new leadership every year or every other year, and then leave it up to the CAC to decide how to make that happen.

If the Committee stays with the proposed structure (elections every other year in June), we ask that the Mordecai CAC co-chair structure be allowed to continue by either 1) allowing our bylaws to be grandfathered in or 2) assure us that the RCAC will pass a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote in October for the MCAC to immediately change the RCAC bylaws and retain our existing structure.

3- Election of Officers- written ballots issue

Proposal:

Currently the MCAC only uses written ballots in zoning votes, but if the RCAC Bylaws need to require written ballots for elections, we propose that:

- the ballots only be required for contested elections
- the ballots are not published in the minutes or newsletter

We suggest "show of hands" for uncontested elections. When required due to a contested election, we suggest that paper ballots are kept on file at the community services office in case anyone wants to contest the results. We have strong concerns that the proposed requirement as stated ("The minutes must reflect how each voter cast his or her ballot.") could discourage turnout and participation. Most of us have the expectation of a level of privacy when we vote in any election, and this seems to run counter to that.

Thank you for your consideration of these bylaw revisions. We look forward to continued discussion. If you would like to read our current MCAC bylaws, they are located on our website under the "About" tab. (<http://mordecaicac.org>)

Sincerely,

Aaron Afarian, *MCAC Co-chair*

Philip Bernard, *MCAC Traffic Chair*

Dana Deaton, *MCAC Communications Chair*

Kim Gazella, *Leadership team member and past Co-chair*

Rebekah Vincent, *MCAC Secretary*

Finley Lee, *Leadership team member*

Merrilee Jacobson, *Picnic Chairperson*

Duane Beck, *Leadership team member*

Patricia Merz, *Leadership team member*

And other members of the Mordecai CAC Leadership team.