

Bylaw Amendment Explanation
Good Standing

The bylaws amendments listed below passed on 09/04/19. Prior to the election, we had prepared an explanation for each that was shared with the community. We have included this information on the website because it may be helpful for those working with this language in the future.

ARTICLE III: Membership

- 2) Member in good standing: In order to remain a member in good standing and be eligible to vote, a member must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must attend at least three (3) regular meetings, board meetings, or previously sanctioned community events within six (6) months prior to the meeting at which a vote will be cast.

Explanation: It is clear from the bylaws, that the intent of the founders of the Ridgely's Delight Association (RDA) was to encourage community members to be activists who participated in making informed decisions about important issues in the community by attending meetings and voting based on the information provided at those meetings and/or engaging in activities that were designed to improve the community for all. To this end, they placed some activity requirements on members who wished to be eligible to participate in RDA votes.

The current requirement is that members participate in 2 qualifying activities (e.g., meetings, community clean up, COP walks, etc.) over a 4 month period immediately prior to any vote.

This amendment extends the qualifying period to 6 months and requires participation in 3 qualifying activities. It is in keeping with the founders' vision of an activist community. This amendment will create a longer period in which the member can attain good standing, but it is only fair if you extend that period, that you also commensurately expand the qualifying events.

This amendment is important because we are returning to the requirements of the bylaws that call for the community to vote on virtually all issues in front of the community. That will result in votes potentially occurring at each community meeting, not just in November as has been the norm in the past number of years.

And to ensure that members can plan their activities to meet these requirements, each year, as close to the start of the new year as possible, the eligible members will decide what activities qualify as previously sanctioned community events and a list of those activities will be available online to the community to help them plan. If that vote does not take place in January, the activities that we voted on in the previous year will remain active until a new vote occurs. This is necessary so that we can always ensure that we have a legal roster of who is in good standing and eligible to vote.

ARTICLE III: Membership

2) Member in good standing (new paragraph 2): Members with medical issues that restrict their ability to attain good standing (e.g., illness, mobility impairment, etc.) may be deemed to be in good standing by asking the Secretary for an exemption from the requirements above at least 2 days prior to any vote that is scheduled or anticipated.

Explanation: While the intent of the Founders of the RDA was to encourage an activist membership by requiring certain activities on the part of the members in order to be able to vote, we are also aware that one of the things that makes Ridgely's special is the diversity of our community, including those who are dealing with illness and mobility challenges that may make it impossible to engage in a sufficient number of qualifying events to meet the good standing requirements. It would be wrong to disenfranchise these members because of medical limitations. This amendment acknowledges that and offers a way for these members to be able to participate in votes in spite of the medical challenges they face. Because medical issues are such a private matter, members requesting this accommodation will be taken at their word and not asked to explain or prove their medical conditions or limitations.