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Orange County Register Publication

Credit Card Controversy Heats Up

BY CHERYL WALKER

THE LAGUNA WOODS GLOBE

Third Director Ray Gross broke silence about a closed session issue at the mutual's monthly meeting Tuesday to address a letter from Residents Voice regarding the credit card charges on statements obtained by resident Leonardo Peverieri.

Gross said he was appalled that directors were being threatened with recall by Residents Voice if they failed to comply with the plan outlined in the letter.

The credit card statements were obtained under a recent amendment to the Davis Stirling Act, that portion of the state's Civil Code regulating common interest developments.

The amendment gives members the right to inspect and copy "enhanced" association records including invoices, receipts, cancelled checks, purchase orders, statements for services, reimbursement requests and credit card statements for cards issued in the name of the association. Peverieri requested the Platinum Visa Business Card Company Statements for PCM (Professional Community Management) Agent for Golden Rain 2005-7.

Peverieri, Residents Voice and others, have expressed concern about charges for dining and travel expenses, gifts and miscellaneous items.

In the letter to directors of Third, United, Mutual 50 and the Golden Rain Foundation,

ity and Community Access Committee (Board Room); 1:30 p.m., CAC Equestrian Advisory Group (Birch Room).

Garden Advisory Group (Birch Room)

Friday, April 27: No meetings scheduled.

Credit Cards

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charges and urged that they be immediately investigated by independent counsel to determine if laws have been broken and if so what remedy should be taken.

The letter calls for the boards to meet in a properly noticed open session gathering to hire an "independent" and "unbiased" legal counsel. The letter suggests either Robert Adel or Steven Rice. The latter was hired by other residents, who call themselves the Discovery Group, to determine "once and for all" the status of the governing documents. He also was employed by the residents of Seal Beach Leisure World to determine their rights under their governing documents.

The Voice letter states that any other counsel other than the two named would be unacceptable.

Gross said in his former occupation as a police officer he was used to being threatened. He stated, though, that as a director threats were unacceptable.

He said every vote he took as a director "was for the public involved" and added that he

would not be told "to do this or else; ... if you want to get rid of me just do it."

Gunther Vogt said he agreed with Gros's statement.

The board did discuss the issue in closed session but President Jim Matson said Wednesday morning there was no reportable action or statement.

He did say in open session, however, that he had talked with his GRF counterpart and felt that they were going in the right direction.

At the meeting, as well, General Manager Milton Johns did address the issue and asked residents not to make a "rush to judgment (that) has maligned dedicated staff."

He said that the three years worth of charges once explained were "boring department and business-related expenditures" that were fully reviewed by the Golden Rain Foundation last year after the Davis Stirling Act was amended to allow access to the enhanced financial records. Johns said GRF found that all were business related, legitimate and budgeted for.

He said attempts to view them as malfeasance were unjustified and "salacious."

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