

Opinion

Six Months to Go. Will President Conners be Able to Accomplish Anything?

Is the "president" of a homeowners association president of the "Board" or "president" of the "Association"? Attorney Adrian Adams, of Adams Kessler PLC, a luminary in the field of homeowner law, in responding to this question in a Davis-Stirling .com Newsletter, reveals his thoughts on a problem with a "president" of an HOA.

He wrote: "I've also run into the problem with a woman who was "President of the Association because she received the most votes (unfortunately, the rest of the board agreed). She had an inflated sense of power and ran roughshod over the other directors. Her opinions were "more important" than theirs because she spoke for the "entire membership". I know it's irrational, but it happens. For some, the title goes to their heads. It makes no difference to them if they are president of the board or president of the association, they spin out of control. When that happens, I remind the remaining directors they can remove the president at any time and make someone else president."

Although Attorney Adams has probably never heard of Third Mutual President Cynthia Conners, there lurk some undeniable similarities in Attorney Adams characterization above that would remind us of President Conners.

Conners believed she should have been elected president because she received the most votes. Although our Board did not agree at that time, she did not deny herself the top job for long. Conners is largely believed to have been the architect and driving force in the coup which forced President Stanley Feldstein from his elected position of president just two months later. Feldstein's unceremonious removal from office and Conners subsequent election to president created a hostile division in the Board from which it has not recovered, and alienated a large percentage of the silent majority in the community who believed that Stanley Feldstein was the hope of the future for many of our elderly residents.

Does Conners have an inflated sense of power and run roughshod over the other directors? It depends on who you ask, the Group of Six who faithfully vote with her or the Minority Group of Five who tend to vote for the best interests of residents rather than the political agendas of those who don't live here.

Those of us who have witnessed Conners' in her presumptuous role as "rumor monitor" will likely testify that she believes her opinions ("I'm an attorney") are more important than her fellow directors and that she exudes a smug, overbearing confidence that she is speaking for the entire membership of our community.

Members of our community doubtless care whether President Conners is president of the "Board" or president of the "Association". What they care about is when she will begin to act in their best interests. In spite of her lengthy meetings and verbose posturing she has accomplished little. In her four months as president she has failed to heal the wounds and unite a badly divided board; she has failed to enact legislation that will improve the quality of life for our citizens; she has failed to honor the Boards commitment to revise the Management Agreement; and, she has failed to employ independent legal counsel.

Has the title of president gone to her head? Has she spun out of control? The jury is still out. Let's watch and wait to see what President Conners will salvage from her remaining six months in tenure.