

TRAITS OF EFFECTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By Associated Property Management

The great American economist John Kenneth Galbraith, once wrote: “Meetings are indispensable when you don’t want to do anything.” Unfortunately, in many cases, he is right. Effective board of directors share the following traits and they get things done for their associations. Does your board share these traits as well?

1. Board of Directors Meetings are for making decisions. Your Board Members and Committee Leaders all understand what decisions have to be made at the meeting.
2. All Board Members and Committee Leaders are part of planning of the agenda in order to ensure that the most important and most time-critical decisions are made first.
3. All Board Members and Committee Members ensure that reports and information necessary to make the needed decisions are sent with the agenda and in sufficient time for everyone to read the contents prior to the meeting.
4. All individual participants scheduled to make a verbal reports are contacted in order to make sure they will be present or if unable to attend will appoint someone else to give the report.
5. Effective Board of Directors ensure that Rules of order are an important part of the decision making process. Also, all decisions are made fairly and that the rights of the majority and minorities are protected. In addition to the above, effective boards make sure that the Rules of order encourage adequate discussion and participation.
6. Effective boards encourage the quiet ones to participate. A chairman will direct questions to them or go around the table so that everyone can comment.
7. If the debate becomes confrontational an effective board will seek ways to identify the interests and seek ways to negotiate to a satisfactory resolution.

Effective board of directors work as a team, even though their diversity, positions and experience may sometimes be at odds with each other. Overall, effective boards will identify common goals and find ways to get everyone to work towards the completion of those goals for the betterment of their association.

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