

Allandale Neighborhood Association Board Meeting June 3, 2020

New Business Item by Janis Reinken Proposing Listserve Guidelines Modification

This proposal would add a 5th category of guidelines for handling email messages and their attachments that are sent directly to allandaleneighborhood@gmail.com, and making a decision before sharing them with participants registered to use the ANA groups.io listserv. This concerns managing the flow of incoming messages from persons or entities not registered with our listserv, yet the concern here is not with official governmental communications. Monitoring the flow of messages shared among the ANA listserv participants is a different function from screening email messages directly sent to the ANA at allandaleneighborhood@gmail.com because this address is on the website, and is being used to contact the Board (and our ANA Members) for a purpose.

This proposal is not intended to seek a change in the Bylaws, yet it would clarify the guidelines about whether or when communications sent directly to the ANA may or may not be distributed broadly to the registered listserv users. In fact, some of these messages may seek to have the ANA (Board, or perhaps Members) make a decision to endorse, promote, support or otherwise approve something: a cause, a policy change, a business initiative, an event, or take a position of some kind. Bear in mind that these unsolicited emails frequently have the involuntary effect of adding allandaleneighborhood@gmail.com to a subscriber list for receiving future communications, unless action is taken to unsubscribe.

If it doesn't violate the Purpose clause (Article III) of the Bylaws, a decision should be made (by the Board or the Membership, as appropriate) what to do about these communications, in alignment with Bylaws Articles IX and X. Upon initial review of the communication, the ANA Board (or Membership, in some circumstances) may need to decide whether to forward to all participants on the listserv, or not. In some instances, perhaps a simple disclaimer would be adequate in forwarding. Presumably, we would not want ANA listserv participants to assume that the ANA (Board or Members) approved, promoted, supported or endorsed the content.

The handling of unsolicited emails sent to allandaleneighborhood@gmail.com by persons or entities not registered as ANA listserv members calls for the ANA to establish an objective and consistent approach, before the ANA takes responsibility for forwarding them to all listserv participants. It's about deciding whether to trust messaging from external persons and entities and not trusting the sources of all incoming emails, so that the ANA is not sending them out randomly to the whole listserv. The registered listserv users may view this message forwarding as unwelcome spam. Also, forwarding by the ANA may create opportunities for computer viruses and hacking through cookies, tracking devices and possibly embedded malware.

Currently, our listserv posting guidelines prohibit the following: the proposal is to add #5, relating to a process for forwarding of incoming emails directed to the ANA.

1. Insulting or inflammatory messages
2. One-on-one messages, messages to a specific individual, or "chat" between individuals

3. Messages which are intended to promote a business, unless the message is in response to a specific request for a service or product
4. A discussion of issues not related to our neighborhood
5. An email addressed to the ANA at allandaleneighbor@gmail.com should be forwarded to the Board as representatives of the membership, before distributing it to the ANA listserve. This applies to unsolicited email (with or without attachments) sent to allandaleneighbor@gmail.com by a person or non-governmental entity seeking action by the ANA (Board or Membership) to endorse, promote, support or otherwise approve something (such as a cause, a policy change, a business initiative, an event, or take a position of some kind), and / or seeking to have the ANA re-publish the messaging to registered users of the ANA listserve in order to communicate with them. In appropriate circumstances, a disclaimer may be used to indicate clearly that the Board and Members of the ANA have not taken a position and that the act of forwarding the distribution of the message to the ANA listserve does not indicate approval, endorsement, promotion or support of the contents of the message.

For Reference to Proposed New Business Item

Allandale Neighborhood Association Board, June 3, 2020

Allandale Neighborhood Association Bylaws

2019 Revision of 2015 Bylaws

Ratified by the General Membership March 6, 2019

Article II: Purpose

ANA is a Texas non-profit corporation whose purpose is to promote and protect: the quality of life, safety, residential and environmental characteristics, fair housing, and property values of the neighborhood primarily and all neighbors generally; to identify and assess issues of importance to the residents of the Allandale area; and to promote participation by area residents in activities that affect their neighborhood. ANA should actively engage in activities that aid and are necessary to support these purposes.

Article IX: Political Issues

1. ANA will not engage in partisan politics. Neither ANA, nor any member purporting to speak for ANA, shall endorse any candidate(s) for public appointed- or elected-office or any political party; nor shall discussions extend to matters outside the purpose of ANA.
2. The Board may support or oppose a ballot proposition if the Board determines the proposition is counter to the mission or purpose of the ANA or is detrimental to the majority of the residents of Allandale. Before action to support or oppose a proposition is conducted, the position must receive a vote of at least sixty-six percent (66%) of members of the Board.
3. Any Board member, when working for a campaign, must recuse themselves from conflicting matters before ANA. Their ANA affiliation must not appear in partisan ads, pamphlets, or other public notice.
4. Upon request, candidates for elective office are allowed to address the Board or General Membership at a regularly-scheduled meetings. The President can limit the presentation to fit posted agenda schedules and will attempt to provide equal

opportunities for candidates. The Association is not responsible for ensuring equal time for any candidate.

Article X: Policy Determination

1. Policy positions of ANA shall be determined by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting at a membership meeting.
2. In the case of necessity, between membership meetings, the Board may by two thirds vote of all EC members, vote to establish policy in the name of ANA. With a quorum of six members present, the Board can determine policy positions of the EC by a simple majority vote, but only in the name of the Allandale Neighborhood Association Board.
3. The policy decision by the Board in the name of ANA, will then be announced before the General Membership at their next meeting.