

After receiving input from many neighbors about the upcoming HOA board election and a proposal raised at the Candidate Forum to increase the number of neighbors elected to the board from 5 to 7, and a considerable amount of back-and-forth deliberations the Board has decided the following:

1. An election must take place. This election is in response to concern expressed by some at a previous HOA meeting that HOA officers had been elected in the past by just a few people who had attended an HOA meeting, and board members should be decided through a neighborhood-wide vote. To allow the relatively few people attending the Candidate Forum to change the election process that was stated months ago and just have everyone running automatically become a board member will make this election as deficient as those previously decried for not being democratic enough. We take very seriously that 200 Brookside neighbors have registered to participate in this election, and we do not want to disenfranchise them.
2. There is no reason the incoming newly elected board members cannot increase the board to seven members post-election and include the two candidates who were not in the top five. A suggestion was submitted to us that if two additional board members were added in this way, they would somehow be less legitimate and treated differently by the rest of the board. The idea that any of our candidates would treat their fellow board members/neighbors in any kind of unfair or less-than-equal way is frankly insulting and we reject that. A purpose of this board is to promote community within Brookside and we are confident each of our candidates takes this to heart and will comport themselves accordingly.
3. A number of ballots have already been cast where people were instructed to vote for five board members. Therefore, we will proceed with the election as originally planned and vote for up to five candidates, with the top five becoming board members and the understanding these initial five will immediately move to expand the number of board seats to seven and include the two candidates who were not among the top five in votes. This will allow for the democratic process to prevail and still accommodate the desire by some to include all the candidates on the board.

No system is perfect. We have tried our best to create a fair and impartial election process and to address the concerns of neighbors raised along the way. The incoming board can certainly review and refine the process for future elections.

