

2021 OPA Search Committee (SC) Report

Section I. 2021 Committee Members and Status of Terms

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date appointed</u>	<u>On Term</u>
Tom Piatti (Chair)	24 March 2021	1
Andie Davis	24 March 2021	1

Section II. Summary of Major Activities during Reporting Period

Due to a lack of volunteers in 2019 and 2020, OP did not appoint a SC. However, I was a 2017 and 2018 SC member, and based on prior experience, I decided to apply as Chairman. Although I got a late start, recruitment efforts for the SC continued and I gained only one additional member, Ms. Andie Davis.

The SC is tasked with stimulating interest in the Board of Directors election, soliciting candidates from a broad spectrum of the OP membership and providing information and assisting potential candidates with the application process. The 2021 Search Committee goal was to find a minimum of four candidates for two open director seats. The Committee began activities as follows:

1. Communications: Due to the Pandemic, all SC activities were conducted via email, with emails being shared with SC Liaison Larry Perrone. The first email was on 28 March to OP GM John Viola who granted permission for the SC to coordinate SC needs with staff - Josh Davis, OP Marketing and Public Relations Director, for public announcements/virtual meetings and with Executive Assistant Michele Bennett for administrative support, such as where applications can be obtained and submitted. There were four email status updates on 11 April, 20 April, 3 May and 8 May advising on activities and/or applications that had been received.

2. Advertising: As in the past, Josh Davis coordinated the placement of notices on multiple "official" OP FaceBook sites, local newspapers, OP weekly email blasts and the Spring edition of the Ocean Pines Report. Articles with SC contact information were published in April editions of the Bayside Gazette, Ocean Pines Progress and The Courier.

3. Social Media: SC members posted notifications and answered inquires on several privately managed local FaceBook sites, such as Ocean Pines News & Info and Ocean Pines ~ Get Involved, besides OceanPinesForum.com. The SC personally contacted numerous residents to solicit their interest in being a candidate or to provide a recommendation of a resident that the SC could contact to be a candidate.

4. Ms. Andie Davis sent an email solicitation notice to each OPA Advisory Committee chairman to pass on to their committee members.

5. Five Candidate Applications were handed to Secretary Rogers by Tom Piatti the evening of 10 May. Those residents who applied are:

Name

Frank Daly

Richard Farr

David Hardy

Stuart Lakernick

Lisa Romersa (subsequently withdrew)

Section III. Problems Encountered and Assistance Required

None.

Section IV. Request for Items to be considered for Inclusion in the Next OPA Budget. Chairpersons Should Consider Impacts on Their Committees Relating to the OPA Comprehensive Plan.

None.

Section V. Recommendations for Board Action

1. Abolish the SC requirement. Volunteerism is waning and it will remain difficult to recruit members. Besides, the SC is not an advisory committee, it merely performs administrative functions that can be (and have been) performed by others:

a. Communications: The SC did not exist in 2019/2020 and was established late in March 2021. Thus each year, Josh Davis took the lead in advertising using dates and deadlines provided by the Elections Committee. If needed, the Communications Advisory Committee could establish guidelines and assist.

b. Applications: With assistance from Michelle Bennett, all five applications were received via personal drop-off or USPS mail and placed in the Admin area SC box. The SC was informed via email when applications were present and proceeded to pick them up for later delivery to the OPA Secretary. In this regard, eliminate the SC box and place all applications in the OPA Secretary's box in Michelle's office.

c. Candidate Information Meeting: Not done in 2019, 2020 or 2021. We know applicants gained Board related activity knowledge by viewing on-line Board YouTube videos, perusing social media or by reading local newspapers. Although OPA pushed out its excellent Resident's Academy videos in March 2021, in June 2021 the average view per video on YouTube was sadly 30-40.

Although a Candidate Info video could be established, an alternative is for the Communications Advisory Committee to hold an in-person question and answer session with past and present Board members in attendance.

2. The two more candidate than vacancy requirement: This requirement should be eliminated due to the potential lack of applicants, in particular, which caused a delay in 2020.

Thomas Piatti

Search Committee Chairman