

Former director wants GRF out of management

By Patricia Millan
News Staff Writer

A former Golden Rain Foundation Board member urged the Board Tuesday to "get out of management."

"Leisure World is being overgoverned by its own residents," said Easton Roberts, former GRF vice president and GRF member from 1981 to 1984.

Roberts pleaded with Board members to set policy only, and allow the management company to manage the community, something he said is not being done.

"We have management by committee, which is the most time consuming, inefficient, costly form of management possible," Roberts said. "Our management company, PCM, is not allowed to manage. They spend 80 percent of their time in meetings with residents, arguing micro details."

Roberts, president of the El Toro Water District, cited the Board's experience with the irrigation and pumping plant for the Leisure World Golf Course as an example of its inefficiency.

The almost four years GRF has spent on the matter, discussing it in various committees and waiting for county, state and federal approval, could have been done much faster and cheaper if the Board had allowed PCM to handle it, Roberts said.

He also urged GRF to work toward the formation of one board of directors for all of Leisure World, streamlining the governing process.

"I think the housing corporations and GRF should subordinate their individual authority and power for the good of all Leisure World," Roberts said. "Residents and their problems are no different just because they live in different areas of our community."

I have been pleased by the many positive responses by residents, including some mutual and GRF directors, to my remarks to the Golden Rain Board at its last meeting concerning our governance and my suggestions for changing and improving it.

I would like to relay to residents that the only way we can get change is to ask for it. Please write to the Golden Rain Board of Directors and to your respective mutual boards and confirm the ideas I presented or give them your own ideas on how to proceed.

If they give it to a "committee" it will be another five years before we see any decision making. One reason our monthly maintenance cost has gone up 350 percent in the 14 years I have been here is our inefficient system of governance.

One or two people presenting ideas to the boards does not get action. It takes the cumulative effect of a lot of residents to make an impression on the boards. Please write then even if your ideas do not exactly coincide with those I presented to the board. It is important that they understand it is time for a change.

Easton R. Roberts
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