

Join an HVLA Committee? -- Pros/Cons

Data was compiled partly from a Forum Post from Feb. 1-7, 2017. There were 6 commenters all of whom had been either on the Board or on one or more Committees.

PROS

Have input to the Board
Participate in governance
Have a sense of importance
Serving the Community
Help improve HVLA
Meet new people
Openings often available
Many achievements
Get things done
Support by hard-working staff
Stepping-stone to Board
Develop influence/power

CONS

Could just email them
Board has often ignored
Seen as futile by many
Being part of a useless group
Steep learning-curve
High turn-over
Directors don't attend meetings
Insufficient connection with Board
Legal counsel review slows process
Inconvenient meeting times
Doing "staff" tasks
Too infrequent reporting to BOD
Assn. members often uninformed
HVLA Size = very large/complex task list
Meetings too infrequent
Thankless job
Lots of negative feedback
Outdated CC&R's
It's "volunteer"
Not always asked for input
Inconsistent attendance
No strong dissention allowed
No training provided

Facts:

1. The Finance Committee recommended AGAINST purchase of 50 new golf carts in 2016. But, the Board approved the purchase anyway -- \$250,000+! The Board also approved an additional \$450,000 for course maintenance equipment.

2. It took the **Lake Committee** about 15 years of hard work to get HVLA to accept and implement a plan for Lake sediment removal (finally approved in 2016). During most of this time, several Boards simply denied their requests. Sediment removal is still just a “plan.” Currently, lack of funds (due to past Assn. mismanagement and corruption) threaten to postpone it further.
3. The **Commons Committee** spent 2 years preparing the “Community Recreation Plan of 2012”, then spent 3-4 years making requests of several Boards without any response.
4. In 2015, the **Election Committee** did what some consider the first honest, comprehensive review of election practices in HVLA. Reportedly, it paints a rather dim view of past practices and makes many good recommendations. Boards since Feb. 2016 have withheld its’ release to the members!
5. For many years (2000-2014) the **Finance Committee** was considered by many to be run Machiavellian/Obstructionist-Style. The first full audit done by an HOA specialist in 2014 recognized many very serious accounting gaps in HVLA financials. It’s much better now.
6. The **Covenants Committee**, one of the oldest Committees, has been responsible for upholding our CC&R’s. Nevertheless, HVLA’s CC&R’s have been grossly out-of-date for many years.
7. For many years (2004-2014), it was common-knowledge that the **Environmental Control Committee** was “controlled” by the chairperson along with the Operations Manager. The committee itself was largely considered non-functional. As a direct result, “environmental control” in HVLA was haphazard, inconsistent and personalized. The most recent Committee chair, who worked hard to make changes, just resigned.
8. The 12-mile Equestrian Trail was an original amenity from 1970. A **Commons Committee** request to rejuvenate it in 2014 was rejected by the Board. Due to neglect and Boards giving-away parcels, it has become defunct and unusable.
9. The Conestoga Trail has virtually disappeared due to lack of maintenance. Assn. promises in recent years to purchase equipment to improve and maintain trails never happened.
10. The Golf & Food/Beverage Ops. have been lavished with roughly **\$670,000 per year** of member dues to cover their losses. With NO Committee involvement!
11. Of the roughly 65 recommended improvements in the “Community Recreation Plan of 2012”, about 10-15 have been done to-date. Despite constant **Commons Committee** requests to several boards.

The current Board seems to think this just needs a little tweaking.

Draw your own conclusions.