

June 26, 2021 – AGM President’s Report

Thank you for attending on this scorching June day. Participation really matters, and we appreciate it.

While it has become cliché to refer to the past 12 to 18 months as challenging, we are still in unusual times, which present unexpected challenges. There is a lot that seems brighter (and, obviously, a lot hotter) than it did 12-18 months ago, but there are still shortages of materials, regulatory uncertainty, and widespread personal struggle. So, I believe good things are on the horizon for MBR, I really do, but I also think we (myself fully included) still need to be prepared and generous in our patience and understanding as we move ahead towards 2022. And this is not easy to do when our patience has already been tested so much over the past year plus. However, there will still be hurdles to get over—the current heatwave being just one of them. I hope we can address them with a little bit of kindness and compassion.

So, with that said, I’m not going to talk about the pool or get into other facilities discussions, since those will be addressed at another point in the meeting. I’m also going to keep this reasonably brief—just taking a few minutes to follow up on the topics I presented last year.

Improved communication was one of the items requested by the membership. Here are the actions taken and improvements made to date:

- Thanks to Sheri Hargus, Baker Bits was revived this year, and the issues that came out were full, detailed, and informative. Hopefully fans of Baker Bits enjoyed this year’s issues. Massive thanks to Sheri for all of her effort on this. She did a fantastic job.
- I also continued to send letters to the membership—typically seasonally—and while these letters are not meant to be comprehensive, they seem to be appreciated by some of the membership, and they frequently spur follow up.
- We also kept our monthly board meetings on Zoom, which has made it easier for members to join from wherever they are, and we had fairly significant member attendance this year. Member attendance was even how we conscripted a couple of our board members into service. Those who want to attend just need to reach out to the office, and we send out a Zoom link for each month’s meeting.
- Sheri Hargus also launched our new MBR Member Portal, which will be another great way for members to interact and gain information pertaining to their property, rentals, fees, etc.
- Unfortunately, we ended up getting bogged down with pressing issues and didn’t get to employ Election Buddy to conduct proactive surveys, as I would have liked to; however, I think it is still an option for the future.

So, I think meeting all communication requests will always be challenging. I also understand that most of us are naturally curious and tend to want to know everything—

soup to nuts—but I do believe we now have numerous communication channels working, and it feels like a good foundation on which to build.

On the always energized topic of rentals, I'm going to leave most of this for another portion of the meeting as well, but I will just reiterate a preference for a middle-of-the-road approach to best meet the needs and desires of all of our members. I don't believe in eliminating short-term rentals, and I don't think there is an appetite for that from the majority of our membership; however, I do think there should be rules, and that those rules should be enforced. Short-term renters are not members of the community and don't share the same long-term connection to Mount Baker Rim, so I think it is essential that the rules (and their enforcement) ensure that MBR owners and their personal guests are able to enjoy their time here without significant impact.

One other thing I'd just like to mention—just to get people thinking about it—is that there is a serious lack of long-term rental housing in Glacier. Local business owners are struggling to find help because many local employees are being forced to move out of the area due to the shortage of affordable, long-term rental housing. So, I mention this just to get people thinking about possible solutions. Obviously, this isn't specifically MBRs problem to solve, but most MBR members enjoy our local restaurants and other businesses, and most of us would like to see those businesses continue to thrive and continue to enhance our experience here within the broader community. So, this mention is just to help create awareness of a local issue.

I had a topic on here last year called "Personal Agendas versus Democracy," and I talked a bit about trying to make sure that we're representing ALL Mount Baker Rim members—and not just those with the most visible agenda items. And I genuinely believe that this board has operated in this fashion—trying to fairly represent everyone. On many occasions, each one of us has ended up voting for something we didn't personally agree with—but that we felt made sense for the broader population. I really admire that type of selfless action taken on behalf of others. So, I won't belabor this topic, but I think the ability to look at everything through the lens of "What is best for the entire community," is a really great quality in a board member. And on that note, I'd just like to take one more minute to say thank you and to express my admiration for my fellow board members. I think Rheannon, Chris, David, Steve, Ben, Rip, and Sheri have served this community valiantly through difficult times. I have great respect for their commitment and service.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our staff, who have managed to roll with change and upheaval with the utmost flexibility and commitment. I want to extend a warm welcome to Michael Wilson, who has just joined us as our new MBR Community Manager. He brings great expertise, and I know he is excited to be getting started. Kenny Sather is as dependable as the sun and the moon. He takes exceptional pride in keeping the Rim looking great, and he works hard, even under adverse conditions. I want to sincerely thank him for his ongoing commitment to MBR. Laura Meyer is the picture of organization, adaptability, conscientiousness, and follow through. She has

done a fantastic job for Mount Maker Rim, and I thank her for her dedication. Christopher Starks has also just joined us, helping with part-time, seasonal groundskeeping work. My understanding is that he is learning the ways of the Rim exceptionally quickly and has already been a huge help to Kenny. I welcome Christopher as well, and am so excited that we are now pretty well fully staffed. I offer a huge thank you to all of our staff members.

In summary, I continue to believe that Mount Baker Rim is a very special place, and that we are all lucky to get to spend time here. Meeting the differing and distinct needs of all of our members will remain a challenge—especially in uncertain times. The only thing I would like to urge is that we try to have patience and understanding for our neighbors and fellow community members as we move forward. I thank you for letting me serve as your president for the past two years. It has been a challenging and highly rewarding experience.

Thank you,

Lisa Beliveau