

*Dear Mount Baker Rim Community Club Members:*

*Mount Baker Rim's Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 20th, 2020. **There will be an important difference this year. We will be holding the AGM online due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.** Please mark your calendars! The online meeting will have an initial setup period to allow everyone to join and get acquainted with the format. The setup period will start at 12:30pm—with the meeting called to order at 1:30pm.*

*Online voting will start **on Sunday**—after the meeting has concluded. Results will be sent out via email after voting closes.*

*Additional information on how to join is enclosed. If you don't have access to a computer, you can dial in with just a phone. If you are unable to find a way to join, please contact us ahead of time at [office@mtbakerrim.com](mailto:office@mtbakerrim.com), and we will do our best to find a way for you to participate.*

*We understand that holding the AGM online is a significant change, so I will briefly explain why we have chosen to proceed in this manner:*

- Indefinite postponement seemed like an inferior option when weighed against the option of holding a (perhaps imperfect) online meeting.*
- An online AGM will still allow the board to share and communicate with the membership.*
- An online AGM enables us to continue to work in a democratic and transparent way.*
- An online AGM may be reassuring to those who have been unable to visit their MBR homes since the pandemic began.*
- An online AGM will allow the board to hear from a broad portion of the membership.*
- An online AGM will allow us to vote on new board members.*
- An online AGM will allow us to ratify the new operating budget.*

*While our current bylaws do not expressly permit online meetings and online voting, the current WA State Stay-At-Home Order makes specific provisions for non-profit organizations like ours to conduct electronic business at this time in order to keep our members and staff safe. We consulted our outside counsel on this matter, as it is our sincere hope to serve you lawfully and in good faith. Based on our understanding of the current state law and the advice of our outside counsel, we decided to hold*

*an electronic vote (supported by the WA State Stay-At-Home Order) to add electronic capabilities to our bylaws. It is widely expected that the portion of the current state order that covers MBR activities will be extended through June, and if extended, we'd be legally able to hold the online meeting and voting without a bylaw change; however, just in case the order is not extended, we decided to hold the online vote to allow us (if it passes) to conduct an online AGM and voting in June without any legal gray area.*

*For all of these reasons, we hope you will bear with us. None of this is easy, but we are doing our very best to adapt to the current circumstances in order to serve this community well.*

*Now, I would like to take this opportunity to share some of what we have been doing and what we have accomplished since last year's AGM.*

*Rheannon Schoephoester volunteered to put together an advisory committee of MBR members (not current board members) to discuss and to advise the board on refining our approach to fines and violations. Because she was so helpful in volunteering her time in this way, once the advisory committee had concluded its work, we asked her to fill one of our board vacancies, and she has been a helpful and contributing member ever since. She will cover the results of the advisory committee and our current approach to violations and fines in her director's report.*

*In MBR Grounds and Maintenance news, Roy Massie, our Grounds and Maintenance Director, has worked closely with our caretakers, Tex and Kenny, on a number of tasks and projects. So, in addition to all standard maintenance items, including the mowing, weeding, and trimming that keep the Rim so beautiful, our MBR team also repaired the pool deck and painted the pool fence and benches. They cleaned and maintained the sports courts and made multiple minor improvements, and even though it is closed, Tex and Kenny will continue to make maintenance updates (sand, paint, caulk, siding) inside and outside the Club House.*

*As a side note, we were also apparently told by Whatcom County that we had the best kept pool and pool room in the county. Well done, team!*

*The team also managed a construction project to build a roof over much of our plowing apparatus—and they also insulated the MBR shop.*

*And finally, when some safety and maintenance issues were discovered at the MBR Gate House, the team found and repaired a leak and installed a moisture barrier to prevent future issues.*

*All of which is to say that the MBR Grounds and Maintenance team will continue to work to make sure that Mount Baker Rim is functioning well, and as soon as the COVID-19 pandemic allows more of our membership to return to our lovely community, the Rim will be looking great.*

*Additionally, we received notice from a member about dirt bikes entering the Rim via trails, so we have purchased a couple of signs indicating that this is forbidden. The signs will be posted as soon as they arrive.*

*One quick word on rentals. As I'm sure you can imagine, I hear frequently from members on every side of this issue. The current board is more than willing to explore all sides of this complex issue; however, with so many other pressing issues, the board has felt that this is not the right time to try to make changes to MBR's current rental policy.*

*We would be interested in convening an advisory committee—as we did for rules overall. However, until the pandemic is over, it is probably best to wait. We will continue to work to enforce current rules, and we urge all of you—on both sides of this issue—to have some patience. For the moment, short-term rentals are not allowed due to COVID-19, and when rentals do resume, we will ask those of you who do rent your homes to please be respectful and follow all current rules and guidelines. Not doing so will further animate those who would like to do away with rentals altogether, which I personally think is draconian and ill advised for the community. That said, those who don't make an effort to manage their rentals responsibly do a disservice to the entire community.*

*For both board and staff, 2019-2020 has proven to be a challenging year. Many of us have taken on board-of-director responsibilities for the first time, and we have learned tremendously. We've had exciting accomplishments, and this new board has put forth a tremendous amount of effort. I urge you to thank our board directors for stepping up and taking on the challenge of serving this wonderful community.*

*Chris Park - Treasurer  
Julie Brown - Secretary  
Peter Hauser - Property Standards Director  
Rheannon Schoephoester - Violations Director  
Angie Griffin - Member Relations Director  
Rosalind Hauser - Director at Large  
Roy Massie - Grounds and Maintenance Director*

*We will have **five** open board seats at the AGM. We encourage those of you interested in getting involved and serving the community to run for the board. A few of our current members will likely run again for board seats, and I highly encourage them to do so. It has been a great pleasure to work with this year's talented and hard working board members.*

*Likewise, our staff have been asked to work very differently in light of the current pandemic, and all are doing their very best to adapt with patience. MBR work is always variable and challenging due to so many factors, and this year the typical challenges have been multiplied and intensified. Please take time to thank each of our staff members as well—especially for their patience, resilience, and adaptability.*

*Christy Ables - Office Manager  
Laura Meyer - Office Bookkeeper  
Angela Urso - Part-Time Office Help  
Mike (Tex) Devenport - Caretaker  
Ken Sather - Assistant Caretaker  
Kirsten Mathers - Part-Time Seasonal Help  
Hank Kennedy - Part-Time Seasonal Help*

*Due to holding the AGM online this year, we will try to keep the business conducted to a minimum. And the voting that will take place after the meeting will also be somewhat limited. We hope that this online AGM is a positive experience, and we are bound to learn a lot through the process. When it is over, we will take stock of what we have learned, and through letters, phone calls, and through the website we will continue to do our best to keep you informed. Please feel free to reach out to us as well.*

*Thank you. I wish you and your family health and safety at this difficult time.*

*Lisa Beliveau, President, Mount Baker Rim Board of Directors  
206-331-2600*