

THE ELEVATOR Insiders

Volume 1 Issue 7: November 2019

A newsletter buzzing about board governance and management of condo and not-for-profit boards.

October has gotten away, the leaves have fallen and winter has come too fast. November is about to turn into the holiday craziness of December. We have a Blog Post, a Quick Tip, and two new Podcasts. We end with some questions and would really, really like to get some email from you; our readers.

Pat Crosscombe & Bonnie Oakes Charron, Co-Editors

Keep Track of the Money: Finance and Condos

Reviewing the condo's monthly financial statements is one of the most important tasks each month. It is great if a member of the board is an accounting professional like a Chartered Accountant (CA) or other similar designation, but it is still possible to have a great board without a CA. Establishing policies and procedures helps a great deal towards sound financial oversight. Anyone can learn how to read financial statements.

[Read more](#)

The Sidelight: Podcasts

Two new podcasts this month

1) Pat sat down with co-editor Bonnie, over coffee and cookies (of course) to talk about our favourite subject governance with a focus on professional development for directors. We explored in-depth how [Clifton Strengths](#) helps people to identify their natural talents.

[Listen to podcast](#)

2) Pat sat down with Susan Hempinstall to talk about the process of adopting technology for a non-profit organization. Susan led the process when her board was looking for board management software. Spoiler alert; they did buy BoardSpace.

[Listen to podcast](#)

Quick Tip

Agendas - Be Structured, but Stay Flexible

When it comes to meeting planning, structure is an ally. It's important to have some standard parameters like length of meeting, order of business, and rules that guide your approach to discussion and debate. The Agenda should have the topics listed, with an estimated time noted, and whether the subject is for information, discussion, or approval.

Beyond these basics, keep room for a bit of flow in the meeting by leaving some extra time available – use this time when it is most helpful such as when a discussion is opening up new ideas, or when a presentation or explanation takes longer than planned but is still helpful.

Remember, as Emily Dickinson once suggested – to dwell in possibility.

An agenda is counterproductive when it becomes a confining experience. Remain open to new thoughts and directions, responding to the input provided by directors as the meeting progresses.

Want to help other directors?

How did you learn your job as a director? What advice would you share? Send your best tips, tools, ideas, and articles to Pat. She'll make sure that they are shared on the BoardSpace website.

Stay tuned for details in the next issue of The Elevator.

Ideas for Articles

Do you have any ideas for articles?

Maybe you have suggestions for Quick Tips?

Do you know of any great people to interview for The Sidelight podcast?

Let us know! We would love to hear from you.

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Yours in good governance,

Pat & Bonnie

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