TO: Leaders of SBR resident organizations

This email provides a summary of key points from the March 6, 2019 AACA meeting as well as relevant information about the AACA (Access All Clubs Association). Included are decisions made in a meeting with the HOA Board in Feb 25 pertaining to the AACA, including a clarification received from Jack Sarsam the morning of this meeting.

Some of the comments below are in response to questions raised in the meeting. Some are explanations that are suggested by those comments. Specific and important news pertaining to GroupWorks vis-a-vis the new HOA website and pertinent information about GroupWorks in general are also included here.

This email is being sent to SBR club leaders as identified on HOA documents with the exception of a few who opted out of being shown as club leaders on the AACA.

This email is posted on the AACA news feed and can be viewed by the pubic at the AACA site. See the AACA site by clicking here. Those who join the AACA will receive alerts by email when items are published on the feed, and can opt out at any time using an opt-out link at the bottom of those alert emails.

1. The AACA has been defined by the HOA as a "Service" rather than a "Club". The rationale in part is that the AACA members do not create a product in contrast to what, for example, the members of the WoodWorkers club do. AACA members use AACA software tools to create online "sites" such as websites. The Board did not consider that's creating a product in the same sense as the WoodWorkers members do, therefore the decision to call it a service.

2. That decision raised concerns in that Feb 25 meeting that other clubs might also need to be reclassified to something other than a club. Mention was made of doing a overall review of clubs to make that determination (I assume for the purpose of applying their ruling consistently and fairly).

3. Because the AACA is not a "Club", the HOA denied the request to be shown on a list of clubs on the new HOA site. Presumably other clubs may also be denied listing if reclassified as not being a "Club". I expect the HOA will be forthcoming with a policy document to apply their decision consistently.

4. With that outcome, the AACA and the HOA are fully independent of each other. Neither represent the other. People have erroneously referred to the AACA and its predecessor "SBR Clubs" site as "an HOA site". The SBR Clubs site never was, and the AACA under my ownership will never be.

5. The AACA will stay the course per the plans; full speed ahead. Being independent of the HOA will afford the AACA more flexibility in how it operates, a welcome by-product of the decision.

6. The HOA will include in their list of clubs any club that requests to be included. Per the Board, the listing will include the name of the club, the name of the contact person for the club, and that person's phone number. Furthermore, the club can request to have a link to their club in their listing only if the link opens the club's website. A link that does not do that will not be accepted for inclusion on the club's listing. (This includes Jack's clarification to the decision made in the Feb 25 meeting mentioned above—though those present will remember my somewhat animated lock-your-doors reaction to hearing the listing would not be accepted, not just the link. But no matter, it is what it is.)

7. Addresses/links to clubs (clubs are "Groups" in GroupWorks vernacular) in the GroupWorks application is not possible, only a link to the GroupWorks site itself. For an individual to participate in Groups or view any information about Groups that are inside GroupWorks (GW), one must first have an account in GW and log in. Repeating, to even *just see* what clubs exist internal to GW, one must first have a GW account and log in. In other words, everything in GroupWorks is private to GroupWorks members. It's a closed application being open to GW members only.

8. Per item (6), <u>the HOA will therefore not accept for inclusion on their club listing a link to the GroupWorks site</u>. If the club using GW has a link to their website independent that is independent of GW, the HOA will accept that link.

9. Clubs' websites that were developed by me are independent of GW, and links to those websites are already included in their listing in the AACA.

10. You can request a membership from a GW-internal Group leader, who may or may not approve your request. Also, a Group leader may include you as a Group member with or without your permission. Every visit to a group will require being logged in to GW. Once you become a member of GW, you have restricted/limited viewing of other clubs in what GroupWorks calls an Association. In our case, they call it the "SaddleBrooke Ranch Association".

11. <u>The AACA, on the other hand, has NO restrictions on the link, or more accurately the URL, provided by members of the AACA for inclusion on their club's account; links to GroupWorks are permitted</u>. The AACA treats all organizations the same, no matter how they are classified by the HOA. The AACA is viewable to anyone without logging in.

12. <u>The AACA intends to include all SBR public-facing (i.e., not private) organizations at a basic level of functionality, for free, thereby being a comprehensive list of SBR organizations</u>. Private organizations are not required by the HOA to be open to all SBR residents, whereas pubic-facing ones are. Club leaders can request to not be shown on the AACA, with the consequence of opting out of AACA email (like this one).

13. The basic level of service will be sufficient for a large majority of clubs such that a website is not necessary, because they will find the features being offered for free will be sufficient for their operations. However, they may wish to take advantage of premium services for which there would be fees. To be perfectly clear, every organization in our community is to be listed in the AACA at no cost to the organization. <u>Free means free; no hidden costs</u>.

14. <u>The major feature of the AACA is that members will be able to create "sites" (websites, or maybe just online documents that are sufficient to serve their purposes) using the AACA "platform" without having any technical training or experience</u> by filling out forms, selecting options from a list, and checking check-boxes. Clubs will be able to maintain the content and organization of the site in the same way.

15. All clubs' information and AACA itself run on a professional managed "industrial grade" secure server located in Texas in appropriately controlled environmental conditions, that is backed up off-site on a nightly basis, at no cost to the organizations being hosted on the server. The files are also continuously backed up on box.com on a real time basis, as well as protected on a fault-tolerant local cloud server. In addition to all that, "snapshots" of files are taken regularly which themselves are backed up as stated here, to mitigate possible issues that a file being backed up was corrupted in some way. The server has an excellent up-time record, and data has never been lost.

Please visit the AACA and read the "News" feed from time to time to track the progress.

Ken Gorman