



Alyson Pond

Social Newsletter

December 2010

From the President:

Help make our community *your* community

We had an interesting discussion at the last board meeting about the differences between young and more established neighborhoods. There is a universal transition from the early years, where everyone pitches in to help build the community, to a time where attendance at board meetings – and even the annual meeting – dwindles, where it gets harder to find people interested in serving on the board and chairing activities.

On the one hand, I'd like to take the small turnout for board meetings as a sign that everything is going well and that there aren't any major concerns or complaints.

On the other hand, our community is going to need just as much help in its "teenage years" as it did in the first decade of its life... all the more so as the people who have given so generously of their time now look to hand things over to a new set of volunteers.

To this end, we need your help in a few areas. Foremost, we want your opinions on what you like about Alyson Pond and what suggestions you have for further improvement.

Attached you will find a short survey (which you may also have received via e-mail – if not, please write us at alysonpond@gmail.com to get on the list.) Please take a few minutes to fill it in and share your thoughts with us.

Even better, bring the completed survey to the annual meeting coming up next month. It's a chance to meet some new neighbors, hear what's going on in the community and share your suggestions first-hand. (And, everyone turning in a survey will be entered in a drawing for a free clubhouse rental.)

At the annual meeting we will be looking to fill a number of open board positions. We are also going to try something new this year. Our board currently has 7 members, while our bylaws allow us to have up to 9. We are going to create two "at large" board positions that will have a one-year term and no specific duties (oversight of facilities, architecture, etc.) This is a great way to get involved and give back, with minimal additional time commitment on your part.

There's one more area where we need your help. As you can read in more detail to the right, we are taking the opportunity to start revisiting the Alyson Pond Master Plan. Your input on this is essential.

Thank you in advance for returning the surveys, and I hope to see you all on January 19th (if not sooner). Until then, happy holidays and Happy New Year.

– Adam Gartenberg

Alyson Pond Master Plan: Your Ideas Needed

Back in the year 2000, Alyson Pond adopted a Master Plan for improvements to the common areas. At that time, the Board also established a special escrow fund and each year since then has allocated a portion of Homeowner's dues to build and maintain this fund. (This Master Plan fund has been used to update the playground equipment when the old equipment became dangerous to use, and more recently to install benches by the pond, for example.)

A lot has changed in the 10 years since the Master Plan was created, and we feel it is time to revisit the plan in order to collectively determine the improvements we want to see in the Alyson Pond community and how to prioritize the Master Plan funds going forward.

Our interest in revisiting the Master Plan was also prompted by a decision to reduce the 2011 Master Plan fund budget allocation in order to avoid a dues increase this year. While we are comfortable with the balance in the fund now, we do want to be sure that we are properly planning for short- and long-term improvements.

Over the next six weeks I will be publishing a series of blog posts explaining what is included in the current Master Plan and the projected cost of Plan projects. Your comments and suggestions for new or alternative projects will be invited at this time,

We will also be setting aside a portion of the Annual Meeting scheduled to take place January 19, 2011 to discuss the improvements you would like to see included in the new Master Plan. We urge you to join us at the annual meeting to make sure your voice is heard in setting the long-term plans for our community.

– Paul Martin

Upcoming Events:

12/11 – 10:30am - Holiday Breakfast

1/19 – 7:00pm - Annual Meeting

We hope to see you there!

Board of Directors

We will be voting to fill 5 board seats at the annual meeting, plus 2 new one-year at-large seats (Once elected, board members will determine who will fill specific positions.) If you are interested in learning more about any of the positions, please contact one of the board members below or write to info@alysonpond.com.

President:

- Provides overall focus and direction for HOA Board
- Runs board meetings and deals with legal issues

Vice-President:

- Assumes responsibilities of President in his/her absence
- Liaison to web master for web content

Facilities:

- Responsible for contracts and activities regarding care and maintenance of pool, tennis courts, pond and other common areas
- Acts as point-of-contact with suppliers

Architectural:

- Ensures compliance with HOA covenants and guidelines
- Maintains integrity of architectural guidelines

Social:

- Plans community event calendar
- Runs events or recruits volunteers to do so

Secretary:

- Takes board meeting minutes and ensures distribution
- Oversees issuing of ballots at Annual Meeting
- Prepares newsletter as needed

Treasurer:

- Responsible for HOA budget and financial interface with HOA management company
- Reviews monthly financial statements

Neighborhood Playgroup Ages 0-5

Every Friday 9:30-11:30am



Please email ericapenny@gmail.com or call Erica Penny at 848-9276 for the current playgroup schedule.

Ladies Night Out

The ladies of Alyson Pond get together once a month to unwind, enjoy good food, and spend time together. To receive a reminder about LNO, please email APLadiesNightOut@gmail.com or join the Facebook group "Alyson Pond Ladies' Night Out."

Upcoming events:

- **Dec.** - Thurs 12/16, 7:30
– North Seafood Bistro
- **Jan.** - Wed 1/26, 7:30
– Lemongrass Thai
- **Feb.** - Wed 2/23, 7:30
– Sake House



Holiday Breakfast

We hope everyone, young and old, can come to the clubhouse on Saturday, December 11th at 10:30am to celebrate the holiday season. A light breakfast will be served and entertainment will be provided by Trish Miller.



Bring the attached survey to the annual meeting, drop it in the mailbox at 8521 Yucca Trail, or reply to the e-mail version for a chance to win a free clubhouse rental in 2011.

2010 HOA Board Members

PRESIDENT: Adam Gartenberg, agberg@gmail.com, (919) 845-9124

VICE -PRESIDENT: Gina Katz, geecats@att.net, (919) 846-3970

SECRETARY: Mimi Raub, mraub@nc.rr.com, (919) 518-2501

TREASURER: Jenn Magee, Jennifer.magee@fmr.com, (919) 272-8063

FACILITIES: Rory McDermott, englishdesignus@yahoo.com, (917) 593-2947

ARCHITECTURAL: Paul Martin, leisurepaul@gmail.com, (919) 848-3962

SOCIAL: Position open

If you are not already on our e-mail list, please email us at

alysonpond@gmail.com

to receive reminders and updates of news and ongoing events

Follow our blog: alysonpond.wordpress.com