

Transcription of Podcast 313: John MacDonnell

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SPEAKERS

John MacDonnell, Kathy Lindstrom

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

John MacDonnell 00:09

Hello, Sun City Shadow Hills, Big John here. Well, I had a great Christmas and great New Years. I got a chance to spend it with my family as I hope all of you did. I hope the grandkids were around I hope everybody was healthy and safe. There's a lot of difference of opinions on what's going on out there as far as the COVID, and the flu and everything that's going on. And all I can say is, listen to your doctors and do what they say and be safe. Because it's very important for all of us to have our health and go into the new year without a lot of issues.

John MacDonnell 00:50

I got a few things for you today. I haven't done a podcast for a little while, but have a few things. And I have a special guest today who will be talking about our food and beverage.

John MacDonnell 01:03

So let's start off with a couple of things. This comes from the meeting I had yesterday at the Design Review Committee. Okay, so remember, anytime that you want to do work at your house, that is on the outside of your house, that doesn't include the inside only the outside of your house and your property, you need to go to the Design Review Committee and submit your applications to them. There's no cost for the applications. And I gotta tell you, in yesterday's meeting, with the Design Review, I was so excited because they had a major production of permits being approved yesterday. And I was excited to see how well they work together. And the meeting wasn't that long, they went right through it real fast. They work together very hard as a team and a lot of production yesterday. So very excited about that.

John MacDonnell 02:02

So now, since we're talking about the permits, when you get a permit from the Design Review Committee, and it comes down from the HOA to you, you get a green card. So it's very, very important that when you're doing the work on your house, when you have an open application, an open permit, I should say, to make sure that the green card is visible to the street. And that that green card needs to be visible to the street during the entire time that you're doing your project. The Design Review Committee staff will go by and they will drive, without disturbing you, they'll just drive by the house, make sure that your card is up in the window where they can see it, make sure that contractors are doing what they're supposed to be doing as far as their parking, and any cleanup that is in the streets. And they will just see that your project is underway by seeing that green card in your window. So make

sure you put it in a window that's visible to the street, and they will not disturb you, they will just drive right on by and your project hopefully will be going without any problems.

John MacDonnell 03:13

Now, when you're done with your project, okay, so the contractor is finished, and you're satisfied with the work and you want to pay the contractor be done with it, you need to bring back the green card to the HOA office. That is a sign that tells the staff that you are done with your project. And that you would like to have the final write off of your project, the staff will go by if it's in the backyard they'll notify you that they're coming, they will go in the backyard, they will take a look at your project. If it's in the front yard, they'll go by and they'll take a look at it and they will get you signed off and complete your application. So those two things are very important. Okay, it helps our staff a lot. And that's very important.

John MacDonnell 04:07

Speaking of staff and team members that we have on those committees, we have a lot of committees that have available positions for and we are still looking for people that want to serve on those committees, I think, oh gosh, I think almost every committee probably has one position or so available. So you go to the HOA office and you grab yourself an application, you fill it out. And it doesn't matter if you're a new resident or an older resident, whether you've been here since the beginning or whether you just moved in last month. You have the right to serve on a committee if you choose to do so. And the form will be filled out it will be submitted to the chair of the committee and that chair will take it to the meeting and they will look at your qualifications and figure out if you're a perfect fit for their committee. And if you're that fit, then they will submit that to the HOA office, which will then send it up to the Board and the Board will approve it or disapprove whichever, whichever the case. But I would definitely take the time, if you're interested to go to the HOA office and fill out an application and get it into the committee's. There's many of them, like I said.

John MacDonnell 05:27

Another thing . . . we have a lot of seniors in this community. And I say that respectfully. And the reason why I bring that up is because a lot of people walk dogs, a lot of people walk on the streets, walk to the parks, or whatever areas we have available for them to go to. And when there are dogs involved, there is the potential for a dog to do their thing by playing hard and running around, and you could get knocked down. Now the reason why I bring that up is because we had an incident the other day, and the gentleman fell down, the dog knocked him down. And the main thing that I wanted to make sure that we do not do and anybody does not do is do not pick somebody up if they go down. Because you never know what could possibly happen to them. They could be just a little bruise, or they could have a fracture or break or whatever, don't pick them up, call 911. Call security. Get somebody here to evaluate them professionally. Don't pick them up. Okay? Cover them, if you have something to cover them with or give them a blanket, give them a pillow, whatever, whatever you have available to them, to make them at least comfortable while they're on the ground. But do not pick them up. You never know what's happening inside. Okay. And fortunately for us, we did not pick this gentleman up. And he had professional help. And he is now at the hospital recovering. And that is good. Okay, so do not pick people up if they fall down. That's my health and safety tip for the day.

John MacDonnell 07:16

The next thing is, I don't know if this is the right thing to say "the high road" or "the positive attitude role" or how it is but when you're dealing with staff and security and other residents in the community, if you get into an argument or dispute or just plain don't like somebody, don't get into an argument with them. Don't fight, don't cuss, don't swear. Just move on. I think it's I think it's the best way. We're having issues these days where people are, maybe they're cold, I don't know what it is and, and they just get irritated, easy and I just would like to say just be friendly. That's the only thing I can say I try and be as friendly as I possibly can to everybody. And I think that that's probably the best way. And that keeps you out of getting into any issues with the security team. And that's another tip.

John MacDonnell 08:13

Events at the clubhouse and indoor facilities. We are still currently under the mask mandate until January 15. Now, we don't know if that is going to be lifted, waiting to hear from my friend at the Riverside County Health Advisory, I guess he's part of the Riverside County Health Department. His name is Jose, I'm waiting for him to give me a call back let me know if he has any idea what's happening with that. And then as soon as I have an opportunity to update everybody on that I will.

John MacDonnell 08:45

The Board is going to meet on Friday. And we are going to address a few issues that have to do with the rising cases of COVID, based on information that will we will receive from Jose. We'll make determinations on what decisions we're going to make. It's kind of vague right now because I don't have all the answers yet. But once we do, we will get it out to everybody else.

John MacDonnell 09:13

Big celebration for me. Okay, and I hope that you in the community will really enjoy this because we are going to have a ribbon cutting for the front fountain at the Jefferson gate. We are going to have the fountain turned on Friday, January 14, and that will be from about three o'clock until 4:30 We'll have the ribbon cutting about four o'clock. And, we will have hot chocolate, cookies, and I believe we're going to have some music out there. So if you want to bring blankets, bring your golf carts, bring your dogs are okay as long as they're on a leash, and come out and celebrate the fountain, the turning on of the fountain at the Jefferson pond. It's going to be a great feature. It's going to help to aerate the ponds, it's going to add a water feature there that we have never had before. And I'm looking forward to seeing that.

John MacDonnell 10:22

The next thing is, the new ballot measure that we're wanting to put on, the new measure putting on the ballot, the Board voted to put on a change to the CC&Rs. Now, we have had many opportunities over the years since Sun City Shadow Hills was first started to have changes to the CC&Rs. And every time they have failed because of lack of voter participation. I think this one is going to be one of the bigger changes to allow us at Sun City Shadow Hills to enter into a five-year contract with food and beverage. Basically, that's for the restaurant, that's for the Montecito Cafe. And that has to do with everything that has to do here with food and beverage, okay. And what that does is we have to have 1761, I think it's 61 or 51 votes, I'm not sure exactly, but let's just say we need to have 17 plus 1700 plus votes for "yes" to make this happen. Now, I'm not asking you to vote yes or no, I'm just telling you the importance of

this. What this does is this is going to save our community about \$400,000 a year in subsidies, which is a big deal. And I think that if you investigate or educate yourself, as to what's going on with this, you'll see that there is a big opportunity here for us. Now we're safe on this five year contract. Everybody who will think well, if you enter into a five-year contract, you're stuck with them for five years. Wrong. What we've written into this is that after the first year, if anybody that has that lease on the restaurant is not performing to the standards of Sun City Shadow Hills community, that we have the right within 90 days to terminate that contract. So there's a huge incentive for whoever would take over the restaurant, whether it be Troon, they have the opportunity to put in a bid on it. Or anybody would have the opportunity to bid on running the restaurant on a five-year contract. And that would allow us to, go outside of the community if we had to as well. Take a look at it. Make sure you take the opportunity to educate yourself again and see what it's all about.

John MacDonnell 13:08

I have a couple more things. But I'd like to bring Kathy in now. Kathy is our chair of Food and Beverage. And, she has a couple of things for us. Kathy, how're you doing this morning?

Kathy Lindstrom 13:19

Doing well, doing well.

John MacDonnell 13:20

Recovering, right?

Kathy Lindstrom 13:21

Recovering.

John MacDonnell 13:22

Good.

Kathy Lindstrom 13:22

This grandma got run over by a reindeer here and had a little ankle surgery over the holidays. But what I'm really want to talk to you about is folks, we have food and beverage survey on the website right now. It has come through as the e-blast. And also it's printed in The View. With this survey, we have the opportunity to mold and look at the vision that we have for Shadows. What do we want with this restaurant? Where do we want to go with it? What type of food do we want? What hours do we want? What the aesthetic appearance of the restaurant should be? This is where we get the opportunity to actually start forward and build on what we have that's good. And to go forward in a brand new year with hopefully also the approval of the five year plan would be great, because that would have us have other restaurateur look at this. And we want to choose the best for our community. And only you who are in the community have the voice to make that change. So along with the vote, along with this survey, take this survey. Tell us what you have and what you know about Shadows. After the survey, we're going to be forming focus groups. Groups of residents that will sit down with the Food and Beverage Advisory Committee and the ad hoc committee and tell us what we should do and where we should go with this restaurant. Unless we have your voice, unless you fill out that survey, we won't know what you want, we won't know your desires, we won't know where we need to go. So it's really

important that you look at your e-blast from Monday. But also, Gus is going to be putting it out next week also. It's due by January 15. And we're hoping that if you fill this out, you join us in a focus group and we hear your voice. This is the time to hear your voice through this channel, not on Next Door, not at the courts, not on the golf course, but here in this survey and in these focus groups. So we hope that you're going to take this opportunity to make your community better, and join us by filling out the survey. Thanks, John.

John MacDonnell 15:49

So Kathy, let me ask you a question then. So, we're going to have the residents give us opinions on what kind of food they're looking for, not just the style, but the anything that could be possibly coming into the Shadows, whether it be true and running the restaurant under a five-year contract, or an Italian restaurant, or a Mexican restaurant, or any kind of restaurant, this is the opportunity then for the community to weigh in on this. Is that correct?

Kathy Lindstrom 16:17

Correct. First of all, this survey is just a pre-screening survey. It's just asking, do you use shadows? Would you like to use shadows? Why aren't you using shadows? And then we asked, do you want to join the focus groups. The focus groups are going to be the ones that are really going to shape where we're going to go, the journey we're going to take, the road we're going to follow, for our restaurant Shadows to be the shining restaurant here in the desert. What we want for our community.

John MacDonnell 16:48

So then, so I made mention a little bit ago about how this five-year plan allows us to basically get rid of our subsidy that we've been paying for all these years to the restaurant, and allows a restaurateur to come in or a management company to come in and take over the restaurant. They then take full responsibility for, they'll take responsibility for management of the restaurant, they'll take responsibility for the utilities of the restaurant, there won't be a subsidy anymore, they would pay a lease fee, but the lease fee could be as minimal as \$1, or as much as the contract would be written for. So that would give the community a good chance, by filling out that survey, to say, hey this is what I'd like to see there, this is what I'd like to save as, as far as money is concerned, out of our pockets. I know we did a unscientific survey, earlier in the year, or I should say last year, because we're in the new year. But last year, we did an unscientific survey. And we found out that about 25% of the community was using the restaurant. And your goal is obviously much higher than that. Is that correct?

Kathy Lindstrom 18:02

Absolutely. This is the we're all paying for this restaurant right now. So we should all be using it. And if we're not using it, what can we do to improve it so that you will come out and have a gathering place here at Shadows, at our restaurant. The beauty of the five-year plan is that now we can look and see where we want to go with this. The ad hoc committee started out with a feasibility study. And where we want to go right now is this is all come, and it's a great time to look forward. 2022 is a new year and a new way to move forward. And putting this all together is really going to be a boom for our community.

John MacDonnell 18:44

Kathy, I think you've done an outstanding job with your committee. You have been a great leader and running the restaurant has been, or not running the restaurant, but running the Food and Beverage to help the restaurant has been a monumental task. It's been it's been something that you've spent many hours on and a lot of dedication back to the community. So, as far as the Food and Beverage chair, I thank you very much for all the work that you and your committee have been doing.

Kathy Lindstrom 19:12

And it's a great committee. And this is your committee people, if you have any questions, please feel free to address them to the Food and Beverage Advisory Committee. We'll be very happy to answer your questions. But right now we need your help, fill out that survey and volunteer for a focus group.

John MacDonnell 19:31

Okay, Kathy, that's wonderful. Thank you very much for your time here today.

John MacDonnell 19:35

I also have one additional thing here and this comes from Mr. Bob Israel who is the chair of the Nominating Committee. He has informed me that going on now through the 15th of this month, the nominating committee is accepting questions that you would like to ask the candidates that are running for the Board of 2022 You can send your questions to the nominating committee at Sun City Shadow Hills, CA. So it's nominating@scshca.com. Or, you can take your questions in, and write them down and take them into the clubhouses and the gym. There are boxes there that are available that you can put your questions in. And those questions will be taken to the complete nominating committee and they will be formed and ready for questions to the to the candidates.

John MacDonnell 20:37

We have the forum, okay, the candidate forum is going to be January 27. It is open to everybody in the community, all voting members can come. And it is where the candidates will be up and will be asked the questions that have been submitted. And you will be able to watch this live at the clubhouse and that will be at 2 pm at the Montecito Clubhouse.

John MacDonnell 21:04

And we do have six candidates for three positions. So, that means that we have what's called cumulative voting. This is a voting pattern that gives you the right to place . . . now remember, each household gets the opportunity to vote, not each member of the household, but each household gets a chance to vote. And with three spots open, the cumulative voting allows you to place all three votes on one candidate. Or, you can put two votes on one candidate and one on another. Or, you can give three individual votes for three different candidates. This is the opportunity that you have. So, if you mark a candidate, and you mark it once, if you choose to have that candidate have more than one vote, you need to mark the proper boxes that will give that number of votes to the candidate. Now, I believe Mr. Israel will be speaking at the forum ahead of time to go over a cumulative voting again. And we will continue to do that as long as we, prior to the election. So I came on the voting is a little different than we had last time where you had one vote for one candidate. This one you can have three votes for one candidate, two vote for one candidate, or one vote for one candidate, whichever you choose.

John MacDonnell 22:34

Okay, I hope I've given you some good information today. Again, I tell you this every time I enjoy living here, I enjoy being your president. And the Board is a great Board to work for this community. And we've done a lot of great things in this community. And I thank the members of the Board. And I think the members of the committees who work very hard to submit all of their paperwork and requests to the Board.

John MacDonnell 23:04

It's a little chilly outside, enjoy yourselves have a great walk pickleball, tennis, bocce ball, all the great things that are out there, enjoy them. Enjoy the gyms. Be careful again, remember, we're wearing masks still until the 15th of this month, and then we will have an evaluation from the county as to where we go from there. All right, be safe, be healthy, and love you. Thanks community. Bye bye.