

**Re: Lack of harmony**Jeffrey <[jeffreyfl@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyfl@gmail.com)>

Tue 3/8/2022 2:06 PM

To: Natasha Moore <[nmoore@highlandbeach.us](mailto:nmoore@highlandbeach.us)>

Natasha, Since the Referendum Fiasco of a few years ago, I have been hoping to get charter revisions in place that will to some extent require commissions to investigate what the public wants. To date, most of our commissioners only think they know what the public wants or worse they think they know what's best for the public.

This is now the second time around that has caused unnecessary stress for some of our residents and our commissioners. All over our first-world issues.

I really don't want to do this dance again in another five, ten or fifteen years.

Jeffrey

On Tue, Mar 8, 2022 at 8:36 AM Natasha Moore <[nmoore@highlandbeach.us](mailto:nmoore@highlandbeach.us)> wrote:

Also, I did submit an agenda item for the 3/15 town commission meeting to discuss lessons learned from the most recent referendum. I'll include your email in the discussion.

Thanks,  
Natasha

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**From:** Natasha Moore <[nmoore@highlandbeach.us](mailto:nmoore@highlandbeach.us)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 8, 2022 8:32 AM

**To:** Jeffrey <[jeffreyfl@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyfl@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Lack of harmony

Thank you for your input, Jeffrey.

Thanks,  
Natasha

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**From:** Jeffrey <[jeffreyfl@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyfl@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, March 7, 2022 10:06 PM

**To:** Doug hillman <[dchillman@aol.com](mailto:dchillman@aol.com)>; Natasha Moore <[nmoore@highlandbeach.us](mailto:nmoore@highlandbeach.us)>; Evalyn David <[edavid@highlandbeach.us](mailto:edavid@highlandbeach.us)>; Peggy Gossett-Seidman <[pseidman@highlandbeach.us](mailto:pseidman@highlandbeach.us)>; John Shoemaker <[jshoemaker@highlandbeach.us](mailto:jshoemaker@highlandbeach.us)>

**Cc:** Marshall Labadie <[mlabadie@highlandbeach.us](mailto:mlabadie@highlandbeach.us)>

**Subject:** Lack of harmony

Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioners,

It was brought to my attention that our Commission may choose to blame John Ross and his supporters for the lack of harmony in our town over the Referendum Questions.

I find it ironic that the past commission which proposed the \$54,000,000.00 Referendum also blamed John Ross for agitating the electors against the commission. I remember Mayor Rhoda telling me that everyone loved the Referendum, except for the trouble maker, John Ross.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote, I hope our Commission will recognize that you made the same mistake that the past commission made. You did not discuss the potential referendum questions with a significant number of electors prior to placing questions on a ballot.

In our unwatched commission meetings, you fulfilled all the legal requirements and you may have mailed out a letter or two. You then chose to take the lack of response from the public as support for your position.

Having fulfilled the legal requirements, you set up this Referendum with the knowledge you had or should have had that almost no one in our town had a clue that you were actually going to put these questions on a ballot.

What is sad is that this Commission did not learn from the past Referendum Fiasco. Several of you even campaigned against that Referendum.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Kleiman  
3907 S Ocean Blvd.

## Loss of Referendum

David Axelrod <dzaxelrod@gmail.com>

Tue 3/8/2022 10:56 PM

To: Douglas Hillman <dhillman@highlandbeach.us>; Peggy Gossett-Seidman <pseidman@highlandbeach.us>; Evalyn David <edavid@highlandbeach.us>; Natasha Moore <nmoore@highlandbeach.us>; John Shoemaker <jshoemaker@highlandbeach.us>

I ask myself as I see the results of the referendum, what would have happened if like other changes in the code the planning board had been asked to review the changes suggested by Barry Donaldson and his committee. Maybe the problems would have been noted prior and possibly changes could have been made. A good example would be number two, where if a stop gap would have been included such as is in the Florida code that if any amount required a bond issue or tax increase a referendum would be required. There are other changes that would have helped, but I will not bore you with them. Now you are considering Mr Donaldson for the planning board. He used it once then jumped to an appointed position on the Commission, where he tried to push through Ocean Walk, something that 90 percent of the town voted down. Now he attempts to put through his referendums (yes I know other were on the committee, however again defeated by 60/40. I also believe that he lost his attempt to be elected to commission.

I agree with the Commission that Mr. Donaldson is an intelligent and knowledgeable person, however his view of our town is not a popular one. I vetted Mr Donaldson for the planning board several months ago, and at his interview he claimed I bad mouthed him. The only question I asked in that vetting was to answer questions left unanswered after Ocean Walk. I know this Commission is not the one of the past, however I have concerns regarding how this referendum was handled and some of it has to do with how it was presented by the chairman of the committee.

As to John's remarks about Jack Halpern. Is he a protege of John Ross. I can't answer that. Will he replace John when John leaves. I doubt he has the depth of knowledge that John showed. Is he a bit of a hot head at times. Yes. But what is wrong with having some loyal opposition. John Ross and I have had many arguments regarding the town yet we attend the same wine tasting group and have gone out for dinner.

So in finishing, although I am off the planning board, please use them. It is not only a board to approve boat docks and lifts. In the past it was instrumental in setting up the construction rules, looked at many other code changes and please choose correctly next week for the member of the planning board and don't be committed by promises to certain candidates.

Thank you for your time  
David Axelrod MD