

## Computer Club Commitments

### The main question:

A question was posed to the Computer Club Board of Directors as to what is the reason the Computer Club should exist and what is the scope of the services it should be expected to provide?

### Answer:

The By-laws state that” the computer club was formed to provide a congenial forum for residents interested in computers and the Internet to gather and share information. To be a resource that serves the needs and interests of residents at all skill levels. We seek to make a positive contribution to Greenspring Village by making benefits of computer technology accessible to those who want it.”

In other words the computer Club exists to assist the residents of Greenspring in obtaining the full understanding and usage of computer technology consistent with their capabilities and interest.

### What are the ways this can be accomplished?

- Information dissemination and training.
  - Presentation of formal classes on computer usage and application programs
  - Maintenance of a web site for the Computer Club.
  - Maintenance of a liaison with the Village Bridge development group, the content of the Village Bridge provides much needed information on a variety of important functions on the campus.
  - Presentation of live or video addresses by speakers on various aspects of computer and tablet usage and new developments in the field.
  - Maintenance of a data base of club members to facilitate timely dissemination of important information by electronic means, and paper copies of important information for those who do not have email presence on the web.
  - Participation in expo-type events such as Fraud Prevention.
- Hands on assistance with resident and Erickson owned hardware and software.

- Connectivity problems with Wi-Fi provided by Erickson.
- Recommendations on prospective hardware and software procurement.
- Diagnosis and correction of problems encountered by residents in their apartments. This is currently accomplished by maintaining a list of “Computer Helpers” which is disseminated throughout the community.
- Helping residents of Garden Ridge communicate with friends and family.
- Physical support of the Computer Lab. As stated in the By-laws “The Computer Club operates the Resident Computer Lab. The Computer Lab is available to all members of the Computer Club and all residents are eligible for membership.”
- Interface with Erickson Management to discuss problematic issues which affect club members.
- List serv sponsorship (GRIX)

To what extent should these activities be pursued?

- Resource Limitations
  - Time and talent available at any given time which will vary with the pool of residents capable and interested in participating in instruction or hands-on assistance to residents.
  - Financing and space available will preclude large-scale activities which might appeal to some residents. Examples might be procurement and maintenance of a 3D printing capability or photo processing support.
- Scope of Club Sponsored activities
  - The degree to which the club extends support to other campus groups must be weighed against the resources available at any given time. The support for the Village Bridge is an example; the club can support technical aspects, if called upon, but the content is not provided by the club.
  - The degree beyond computer based technology to which the club will involve itself will be determined on a case by case basis. A recent example is the installation of the new TV system. Many residents had trouble with connections or making the “smart TV” functions work, and received assistance from some computer helpers, but the club did not recognize a

requirement to get involved in a support role as it did with the Wi-Fi installation. This discussion will recur frequently as more and more digital technology is incorporated into common appliances such as smart TVs and wireless printers.

- The club has a responsibility to keep the community informed of new technology or potential problems associated with change affecting the digital world. For example, we published a position paper on the pros and cons of continuing to use Windows XP when Microsoft stopped its supporting role. We expect that the role will be expanded beyond presentations at our club meetings and notes to the members. As a minimum we will present position papers discussing the pros and cons of the issues as the necessity arises.
- Because of the fluid nature of the physical and personnel resources available at any given time, the degree and extent to which these activities will be pursued will be determined by the Board of Directors after consultation with knowledgeable personnel among the resident community, as well as with members of local computer organizations and Erickson/Greenspring administrators as is appropriate.