

Full Name: Connie S. Griffin
Subdivision/HOA: Canoa Terrace
Member Since: 11/2013
Reside Months: 12

- ✓ I have read the GVR Board of Directors Code of Conduct and if elected, agree to sign it and abide by its terms.
- ✓ If elected, I agree to attend one to two days of new Director training.
- ✓ If elected, I agree to complete policy governance training.
- ✓ If elected, I agree to put the Corporation's interest above any special interest group.
- ✓ I agree to participate in a brief candidate video interview that will be published on the GVR website.

1. Directors serve for three-year terms. Do you anticipate maintaining your GVR membership and residing in GVR's jurisdiction for the next three years?
 - Yes
2. Time commitment can vary significantly depending upon the business before the Board and a Director's committee participation. Typically, the Board and committees hold regular meetings once a month, but additional meetings are often scheduled. Are you able to make this type of time commitment? Please list any time conflicts you may have.
 - Yes, I can make a time commitment of attending regular board and committee meetings, as necessary. I have no time conflicts.
3. What best describes your motivation for joining our Board of Directors?
 - I am motivated to join the GVR Board of Directors because although I thoroughly support the GVR Corporation, I am concerned about what sometimes appears to be lack of full exposure of pertinent information and data to the GVR Board of Directors and the GVR membership, prior to a GVR Board vote on a particular issue or action.
4. It is important that you are able to communicate electronically and have access to a computer. On a scale of 1 (novice) to 5 (very experienced), how would you rate your technical skills with computers, teleconferencing, video conferencing, etc.?
 - 4
5. Please list any other boards, committees, task forces or volunteer activities in which you have participated in the last ten years.
 - In the last ten years I have been a Board of Director on the GVR Foundation. I have also been on the GVR Planning and Evaluation, Nomination and Election and Board Affairs committees and some sub-committees. This past year, I have been able to watch and listen to the Zoom Board and Committee meetings on a regular basis.

In addition to these post-retirement volunteer opportunities listed above, throughout my 35 years of work life: I was on boards such as the following:
Path (aka Providing Access to Help) a 24 hour crisis line and senior services agency; Secretary for the Illinois Protective Official Conference; Community Advocacy Network; Co-chair of the Affordable Housing Fair and Affordable Housing Task Force; Human Service Council Member; Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board Member; Board member of Youth Build of McLean County, Central Illinois Coalition for Affordable Housing and the Emergency Food and Shelter Committee and Habitat for Humanity of McLean County, Il advisory board.

I also was one of the founders of the McLean County Continuum of Care alongside PATH. This Continuum consisted of about 50 non-profit agencies that addressed housing and homelessness issues (including transportation, transitional,

emergency housing, rental assistance, etc.) with in our community and county. The whole steering committee process ultimately led to the 13 county Central Illinois Continuum of Care.

I have also participated in Critical Incident Management Team Training, was an Advisor to McLean County Health Dept. Lead-Inspection, treatment and resolution board, Vice President of the SKI Council of Illinois, Member of First of America's (Bank) Citizen Advisory Panel, Steering Committee for the Continuum of Care, United Way Government Unit Chair & Legislative Committee, Habitat for Humanity Advisory Board & Family Selection Committee, McLean County Regional Planning Commission Comprehensive Plan Committee and Housing Sub-Committee, Board Member and President of Bloomington, Illinois, Housing Authority's non-profit "McLean County Partnership for Revitalization and Affordable Housing, Member of the Chamber of Commerce Workforce Housing Advisory Board, Member of the Working Taskforce to the Governor of Illinois Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Vice President of Community Development and Revitalization and Membership for the Illinois National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and Advisory Board Member for Busey Bank.

6. Briefly explain how your education and/or previous life experiences will be beneficial to you as a Director.
- My education and previous life experiences include but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) B.S. degree from Illinois State University in Parks and Recreation Administration
 - (b) Continuous participation in adult education classes.
 - (c) Obtaining Certification from what was then called BOCA "Building Officials and Code Administrators" in the following areas: Property Maintenance Inspector, Single Family Housing Inspector, 1 & 2 Family Building, Plumbing, Electrical and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning) Inspector.
 - (d) I was a Plan Reviewer and Secretary for the City of Bloomington Zoning Board of Appeals and the Sign Board, regularly reviewing proposed projects for zoning and/or sign installation compliance.
 - (e) I reviewed construction plans for compliance with parking lot, lighting, landscaping and ADA accessibility requirements.
 - (f) In partnership with the Bloomington High School's Area Vocational Training Center and Habitat for Humanity of McLean County and the Tornquist Family Foundation, over thirty scattered affordable dwellings were constructed and four affordable housing subdivisions were created and completed. Many of our dwellings were constructed to meet Energy Star Standards and/or used high efficiency construction methods such as the Nudura Product (Insulated Concrete Forms aka ICF construction.)
 - (g) For many years I personally inspected, wrote rehabilitation work-write-ups, determined program eligibility of homeowners, obtained competitive bids, awarded contracts and oversaw the rehabilitation on single family dwellings.
 - (h) I supervised the Community Development Division's property maintenance inspectors, rental property inspectors, fire inspectors, clerical staff, fiscal officer and rehabilitation staff.
 - (i) I was responsible for administering the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which is a federally funded program through the Dept of Housing and Urban Development. I wrote local, state and federal grants for the following programs: Community Development Block Grant, Supportive Housing Program, Continuum of Care, Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation, Home Down Payment Assistance, Down Payment Assistance with Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing Accessibility, and Affordable Housing Trust Funds programs.
 - (j) I had fifteen years of working directly with my local City Council members, City Manager, Mayor and all of the City of Bloomington, Illinois' Department Heads.
 - (k) Special Awards received are:
 - a. Person of the Year for outstanding service in the crusade to end homelessness from the Central Illinois Continuum of Care.
 - b. 2003 YWCA Women of Distinction Award Winner in the Professional Category.
 - c. Certificate of Appreciation from Habitat for Humanity of McLean County.
 - d. Received the John Baldini Community Service Award from MARC Center (now known as MarcFirst, which supports people with development disabilities.)
 - e. Received Certificate of Appreciation from AMBUCS of McLean County for community support of this local service club. (AMBUCS provided accessibility modifications to approved households.)

- f. Received the Annual Recognition Award for Outstanding leadership, Innovation, and Hard Work in tending to the needs of individuals and families in McLean County, Illinois from the Human Service Council.
- g. Received nomination for "Illinois Best Practices for Assessment 2000" from the federal Housing and Urban Development Dept. for the Bloomington-Normal 2003-2004 Consolidated Plan.
- h. Received the NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) Merit Award for the development of the Founder's Square Affordable Housing Subdivision in Bloomington, Illinois. The first affordable housing subdivision of its kind in our community.
- i. Received the Golden Hammer Award from SHAC (Statewide Housing Action Coalition) for an affordable housing Subdivision.

7. Describe your use of GVR facilities and participation in GVR activities in the past two years and how your GVR involvement has prepared you to serve on the Board of Directors.

- My use of GVR facilities include pickleball. I am currently also a member of the Woodworkers Club. However, I have been a member of the Lapidary club and Glass Artist Club in the past. I have participated in activities including table tennis, billiards, used the fitness center for both weights, aerobic machines, swimming pools and hot tubs. I have personally visited each major and satellite GVR facility (this past summer, 2020) to allow me to better understand the unique characteristics of each site. I have attended concerts, movies, and lectures.

The variety of my use of the facilities and clubs help me to more fully understand their needs, desires, and concerns. (including space concerns.)

8. How would you change GVR over the next 5 years?

- I do not want to change GVR in the next five years. However, I want to make sure that a 3-5 year plan is completed and preferably, updated annually for all projections of activities and/or expansions while receiving membership input into the issues. I especially want to make sure that a plan is developed to address the 5 swimming pools that are at the end of their useful life within the next 10 years. I would also like to see a complete inventory of all available exterior space and/or land, already owned by GVR, which could be used for expansion of future needs. I would like to see a compilation of each location's largest construction/expansion of a building that would be permitted without incurring additional county code requirements that would exclude a project from the start.

9. How would you prioritize and finance the proposed projects being discussed by Planning & Evaluation Committee (P&E)?

- Prioritization of Planning and Evaluation Committee projects/proposals that are in process now need a more open and thorough review of needs, data, usage, financial support methods, and member input prior to moving forward.

10. What other projects besides current P&E projects would you propose and how would you prioritize those projects?

- Although these are current projects, the first major capital improvement projects to be discussed at length and in more detail with the Board, staff and membership would be the East Center Swimming Pool and the rehabilitation of the Canoa Hills Club House. However, with regard to proposing and prioritizing projects, not currently in line with Planning & Evaluation, for me would be the development of programs and activities for home bound GVR members. Secondly, I would like to see the development of a fully functioning designed therapy pool/water feature with the potential for developing a creative partnership with either individual physical therapists or therapeutic businesses. This could provide future assistance in helping GVR members rehabilitate their minds and bodies to their full capacity with supervised assistance. Items to overcome with this type of project include determining a site location, creating potential partnerships, designing a quality feature/facility, scheduling, use, transportation, etc. I believe something like this could be a major accomplishment for GVR members. It is something the GVR lacks.