Revised Proposal: MV Usage Rules

Robert Kass <kass@andrew.cmu.edu>  
Mon, Jan 22, 2018 at 8:31 PM

To: Kristina N Jones <kjones@wellesley.edu>, Peter Hecht <phecht@ironwoodpharma.com>, Anne Hecht <annehecht@earthlink.net>, Bob Harrold <bobharrold.xr@gmail.com>, James Kass <jekass@comcast.net>, Jonathan Hecht <jonathan.hecht@yale.edu>, Lora Sabin <lsabin@bu.edu>, Loreta Matheo Kass <lmk1957@gmail.com>, Nancy Kass <nkass@jhu.edu>, Robert Hecht <rob.m.hecht@gmail.com>, Sean Tunis <sean.tunis@cmtpnet.org>, Susan Korrick <susan.korrick@channing.harvard.edu>, Tom Hecht <thecht@hechtarch.com>

Here is our revision. I believe we've addressed the questions. Please let us know of any further issues or questions.

Rob

1. Overview of Scheduling Usage

Before giving details we want to make sure the over-arching philosophy is clear.

We are trying to create a framework that satisfies multiple competing aims: some of us need to make plans early, some can’t make plans until much later; we want to encourage usage of these two houses, while making sure every family gets time, if desired.

There are two main ideas. First, we want to continue to give each sib the opportunity to reserve a time slot, which we'll call their “primary” time slot, whenever they are able to plan their summer, which could be early (January) or later (by May 1). Second, we want to encourage usage by (1) allowing sibs to claim additional time beyond their primary slots, prior to May 1, and (2) allowing everyone, including the next generation, to take dates that remain open May 1 on a first-come first-served basis.

Throughout the scheduling process we assume that everyone will continue to negotiate in good faith, respecting wishes to solidify plans while maintaining fairness.

We would expect to revisit these procedures whenever necessary and, in particular, any time any of the sibs is unhappy with them. We are not trying here to propose rules that would cover every eventuality. Among other things, we are not proposing limits to the total number of days that any family can use the houses; instead, we assume that every family will provide reasonable accommodation to the needs and wishes of every other family.

2. Key Ideas of Proposed Rules

Each sib is eligible to reserve both a primary time slot, and one or more secondary time slots. The sib can reserve these slots for themselves or for anyone else in their immediate family (i.e., for the spouse and/or next generation children, without the sib planning to be there), but primary and secondary slots can only be reserved by sibs, not by other family members acting independently. Other immediate family members can, however, reserve supplementary time slots.

Primary time slots may be reserved January through April. Secondary time slots may be reserved February through April, when they are subject to negotiation with other sibs; in addition, importantly, requests for primary slots will get priority over requests for secondary slots.

After May 1, sibs, spouses, and second generation family members (acting on their own) can reserve supplementary time slots based on availability (they are supplementary in the sense that they go beyond the primary and secondary slots).
We thus have three distinct periods: (i) January, (ii) February 1 through the end of April, and (iii) May 1 through the summer.

We define the primary time slot to involve the use of either Sandy Knoll or Sand Castle (but not both) for 10 days, except that each Kass sib may reserve as their primary time slot 18 days at Sandy Knoll. [We have up until now used 14 days, but the Sandy Knoll ownership of each Kass, and the fixed fees, are a little over 180 per cent of the ownership and fees for each Hecht.] Secondary slots can involve either (a) additional days beyond the primary slot, in either house, or (b) the use of both houses at the same time. When we use the word "slot" we do not mean to require contiguous days.

3. Outline of Proposed Rules

January: each sib can reserve his or her primary slot, subject to negotiation. The sib provides 1 week notice to the other sibs and if there is conflicting interest from any other sib, negotiation takes place. After 1 week has passed, assuming satisfactory negotiation, the primary slot becomes reserved.

February through April: (1) as in January, each sib can reserve his or her primary slot, subject to negotiation, including a 1 week notice to sibs; (2) sibs can also negotiate secondary slots throughout this period; they don't become confirmed until May 1, and they can be superseded ("bumped") by a request for a primary time slot.

May 1 through summer and fall: everyone in each sib's immediate family can reserve time at either house, subject to availability. These are the supplementary slots.

4. Additional Details

January:

Any sib can declare their wish for a particular primary time slot by contacting all the other sibs (by email or otherwise). If there are conflicting wishes, the relevant sibs will negotiate, making sure other sibs are aware of any additional wishes or changes in plans. One week following such declarations, if negotiations are settled, the sib or sibs who declared their wishes will have their primary slots reserved.

February through April:

At any time during this period, sibs who have not yet reserved their primary slot can request one by contacting all the other sibs. The procedure is the same as during January.

During this period each sib can also request one or more secondary slots. If they discover no conflicts, they are free to make their plans, but no secondary slot is considered to be reserved (or "locked") until May 1. Thus, if a sib makes plans for a secondary slot (possibly including a ferry reservation) in February, they run the risk that another sib will raise a conflicting claim in April (note that the Steamship Authority charges a small fee for change or cancelation of reservations). If that happens, the sibs will have to negotiate. Furthermore, primary slot requests will take priority over secondary slot requests. The point here is to allow reasonable access to all sibs up until May 1.

May 1 through the summer and fall:

Any sib or their immediate family member can request any open days at either house by contacting either Tom (Sand Castle) or Rob (Sandy Knoll). If no conflicting request arises within 1 week, the requested days become reserved. When requests after May 1 come directly from a next-generation family member, that person will be expected to pay the usage and cleaning fee.