



Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 August 28, 2020

(via conference call)

President Sweet called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present via roll call: Jean Aronson, Phyllis Black, Jean Bonhaus, Helen Halm (proxy for Penny Boyne), Dennis Brady, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Bill Ciota, Carolyn Clark, Janis Harris, David Mohl, Doug Atkins (proxy for Marianne Mott), Jeanne Nenarella, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Guests: Stan Zarinsky, Chair, RAC Dining Services Committee

Larry Chambers, RAC Technology Committee

Absent: Helen McAninch, Carolyn O'Neill

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The July 24, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes were approved via email distribution and response confirmed by Secretary Warren.

A motion to adopt the Agenda was made by VP Sarah Chambers and passed unanimously.

President's Report: Ron Sweet

Commendations: President Sweet thanked VP Chambers and Secretary Warren for their efforts "above and beyond" regarding projects that have been accomplished this month.

FP Management: All FP departments have been very cooperative in following through with requests and solutions to surfacing problems identified by residents and RAC Committees such as installing locks on GVT bathroom doors for better security; making a concentrated effort to comply with landscaping suggestions to clear out underbrush and dead plants; and working closely with the RAC Dining Services Committee to provide a wider variety of meal choices from the dining room and American Grille.

COVID: Restrictions are gradually being lifted in phases and if COVID statistics continue to improve, management expects to allow controlled visitation to apartments in the building after Labor Day, more persons in attendance at meetings, and use of more facilities both at Freedom Plaza and in Sun City Center. It may be possible in the next month to have in-person RAC meetings and orientations.

Member News: Larry Piechowski will be moving within the month and is working to bring closure to his activities as a RAC Representative and treasurer of the RAC Associate Appreciation Committee.

RAC Survey: In July, residents responded to a RAC survey to determine how many were able to access the RacRep.org website to read RAC Committee and Council minutes. COVID restrictions have prevented the use of the RACPAC method of distributing minutes in hard copy to each resident. Secretary Warren coordinated the project and provided a summary from the raw data along with recommendations. There were 293 out of 394 who returned surveys, and of that group 20% wanted to receive a hard copy of the minutes and 51% were comfortable with accessing the website or reading the minutes from a RACPAC housed in the Residents' Resource Room. The 28% who did not respond could have been away or did not make the effort to be involved. The results indicated that a large majority are interested in being informed through minutes and reports about the work that the RAC Council and Committees do to ensure a higher quality of life for all residents. There is a need to provide technological assistance to those who would like to visit the website, a need to provide hard copies of minutes to those in extenuating circumstances, and a need to determine the preferences of new residents and those who were away or indisposed when the survey was conducted.

President Sweet stated that to return to the practice of compiling 34 RACPACs containing several pages of minutes from 12 committees and the Council on a monthly basis was not cost effective and with that process some were reading minutes two months old. The goal is to post minutes on the website within two weeks after a meeting; place hard copies of all minutes in a reference book housed in the Resident's Resource Room, and house 3-6 copies with RAC Reps who would loan them out when requested for residents identified by the RAC Rep for their floor.

Name The Turtle: In September, residents will be invited to participate in naming a turtle that has been redecorated by Esther Hagen and is ready for that honor. Residents can enter the contest via the website RacRep.org which also presents interesting background information.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Sarah Chambers

Vacancies in Positions: Marianne Mott is still working through medical challenges, so Doug Atkins has agreed to act in her position as RAC Rep for GVT 7-8 through the end of September. Helen Halm is serving for Penny Boyne 2BC who is away for the summer. Need a RAC Rep for 3BC to replace Sarah Chambers who is also VP and Host Coordinator. Diana Parrish accepted the vacant treasurer's position for the Associate Appreciation Committee. The resignation of Larry Piechoski created a RAC Rep vacancy for 1DE. Due to health reasons, Joe Jahn resigned as the RAC Orientation

Handbook Coordinator, but he completed the revision in time for distribution this month to new residents most of whom who were hosted by RAC Reps to reduce contacts with too many persons. There were seven new “Sweet Peas” welcomed during July and August. VP Chambers commended Carolyn O’Neill and Phyllis Black for their work with Sweet Peas, Dave Mohl’s work with the Racket Sports Committee, and Jeanne Nenarella as liaison for the Associate Appreciation Committee. There are plans for a September orientation meeting for RAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Statements: VP Chambers reported that the request for approval of the Health Care Committee’s Mission Statement was withdrawn by the committee. Approval of the Dining Services Committee’s Mission Statement was tabled until the next meeting.

Council Reports

Jean Bonhaus noted that last year during Janis Harris’ administration, minutes did not require a vote for approval at meetings but were approved via email in order to have them available sooner for residents to read. President Sweet stated that Secretary Warren sent out guidelines and procedures for writing and submitting minutes for posting to RAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries. Minutes will be sent via email for member approval within three to five days after a meeting and if no additions or corrections have been suggested within a three to five day due date, minutes will be considered approved. At the next meeting, it will be stated that minutes were approved by the due date. Janis Harris observed that the guidelines developed by Secretary Warren were comprehensive and supported establishing a norm for all parties to follow.

RAC Rep Reports:

Dave Mohl asked if it was recommended procedure to confront a person not wearing a mask. President Sweet answered that management would prefer to be informed in order to reduce personal confrontation situations that could escalate unpleasantly.

Bill Ciota received a question from a resident, “On the RACRep.org website, how will I know when the minutes have been updated?” President Sweet said committees meet at different times during the month and new minutes are submitted during each week. After receiving a copy, he posts them within 24 hours. The matrix display indicates what minutes are available by month and the last month checked is an update. Residents can view them as often or as few times they wish.

RAC Dining Services Committee Report: Stan Zarinsky

The committee has nine members as well as five in the casual dining subcommittee. The committee acts as a liaison for the residents to Dining Management. They report and resolve issues, evaluate the menus and food quality and make suggestions to management. The Dining Services Subcommittee generates a variety of new ideas for

the Grille menus. Chef Chris, Theresa Lehman (Dining Director), Jennifer Gonzales (Asst. Dining Director) and Ashley Ryckman (Grille Manager) attend meetings to provide the latest information. A Touch Town screen now displays pictures of the entrees. The committee is working on a plan for reopening the dining room with consideration of residents being able to eat with friends from other floors. Special themed dinners have been very well received. Comments and suggestions from residents are welcomed. The committee strives to get the best food and service for residents. Jean Bonhaus asked if a financial report was available regarding costs of disposable serving dishes vs cost of servers. President Sweet will consult the Finance Committee for answers.

RAC Technology Committee Report: Larry Chambers

Larry has been acting chair in the medical absence of Mike Anderson who is chair. The purpose of the committee is to assist residents with technology concerns and use of technology both proactively and in response to individual needs, and requests from RAC Committees and the Council. Several video chat training sessions have been held for nine-residents sessions. The participants worked with an individual trainer in order to understand what app worked best for them. Demonstrations of Google Duo, Skype, Zoom and other video chat programs were provided. Google Duo is the simplest app for most to use. There is a fee for Zoom calls longer than forty minutes. Marichris Bowles from the ROC office has provided assistance. The committee will review the people authorized to use the AVL equipment in the auditorium and will recertify a team who will be dispatched as needed. Additional plans are to provide training via the RacRep.org website. Liaison Sweet commented that they have been doing a great job helping residents when they have computer issues. In addition to the current training on RacRep.org, additional training sessions will be posted there. Jeanne Nenarella noted she had a problem with emails on her computer, and Larry said he would help her with it.

President Sweet announced his intention of stepping down as RAC Rep for the 6DE floor in order to devote his full attention on the presidency and Sarah Chambers will be serving in his place as 6DE RAC Rep.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

The next RAC Council Meeting is September 25, 2020 at 9:00 AM – Location TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Warren, RAC Secretary