



Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. December 4, 2020

Nile Dining Room

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, Tim Broad, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Bill Ciota, Barbara Winter proxy for Carolyn Clark, Janis Harris, David Mohl, Brigid Guarino proxy for Jeanne Nenarella, Carolyn O'Neill, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Guests: Carol Croll, Larry Chambers

Absent: Penny Boyne, Carolyn Clark, Sheila Martin, Helen McAninch, Jeanne Nenarella

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The October 23, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes were previously 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.

Oath of Office: President Ron Sweet administered the Oath of Office to RAC Rep Carol Croll 6BC

Report: Dog Park Proposal for Freedom Plaza.

Jean Aronson is the leader of the resident group requesting a Freedom Plaza Dog Park. Jean presented a comprehensive proposal for a Dog Park to be located next to the new pickle ball court at GVT. Jean's committee thoroughly researched numerous aspects related to dog parks in LCS Sister communities and in other locations. Jean presented their plan and asked for approval from the RAC Council with the expectation that the plan would be presented to Freedom Plaza management. Chris Hall of Marketing, via letter, has recognized the value of a dog park as an amenity and is in support if all concerns can be addressed. Currently, there are currently 33 dog owners and 36 dogs at Freedom Plaza. A dog owners group "DOG" would be responsible for governing the Dog Park Operations via By-Laws, rules and regulations, and on-going management. Construction cost is estimated to be \$20,000 plus labor. The RAC Council thanked Jean for her efforts and decided to take the proposal under review. A discussion and vote on this proposal is anticipated for the next regular Council meeting in January.

President's Report: Ron Sweet

1. President Sweet cited accounts of excellent work by RAC Representatives, Committees, and Officers during a challenging year.
2. Janis Harris has accepted the position as liaison to the Community Activities Committee. Liaisons represent the Council to committees, offer assistance and monitor committee activities and projects.
3. A three-holed binder which will contain RAC and Committee Minutes by month has been installed with a chain in the Freedom Plaza Resource Room.
4. Plans are to have a January General Meeting at 10:00 a.m. after the RAC Council meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. General Meetings are limited now to 50 people, so in order for more residents to attend, there may be a need to have selected representatives from the RAC Council and Committee Chairs in attendance rather than everyone in both groups. President Sweet invited the Council to consider what needs to be done and offer suggestions.

Vice President's Report: Sarah Chambers

1. Carol Croll replaces Dennis Brady as the new RAC Rep for 6BC.
2. On Monday, December 7 VP Chambers will present a "What's A RAC?" Power Point briefing to senior FP Staff along with President Sweet. The goal is to improve Staff understanding and appreciation of the breadth and extent of RAC and the work it does for residents and management.
3. The Annual RAC Dinner, with the theme "Celebration", is planned for December 11. The planning committee includes RAC Reps Penny Boyne, Carolyn O'Neill, Jeanne Neneralla and Sarah Chambers. A total of 44 persons are expected including Chris Grella and Joey Mingione as guests.
4. The Associate Appreciation Committee, under the leadership of Chair Janet Blackshire, collected over \$191,000. Over 400 checks were printed to hand out to Associates in the Auditorium on December 4. The Appreciation Committee will submit a detailed annual report to the Finance Committee.
5. The Housekeeping Committee lost a member and now needs a replacement.
6. The Maintenance Committee is monitoring the requests coming in through RACRep.org to watch for patterns in case those patterns have the potential for becoming issues. This feature was created and installed by President Sweet. The assignments given to members to monitor sections of the building were recently realigned to be more equitable.
7. The Technology Committee needed escorts to accompany them into apartments for security and comfort of all involved. VP Chambers recruited eight residents willing to do this. The list was provided to ROC and to Tom Hart who is heading the house call project.
8. VP Chambers met with Angie Roher, Director; Siby Thadithil of Maintenance, and VIP Chair Evelyn Snoeren to ensure VIP needs will be included in new elevators. The contrast between walls and floors and need for a voice announcement system is critical. All will be incorporated in the new design for the elevators.

9. VP Chambers commended RAC Reps for providing impressive Thanksgiving and Holiday decorations on the floor credenzas. Birthday posters for December have been sent to all RAC Reps for posting.
10. There have been no updates needed for the RAC Orientation Handbook. There are plans to update with details about the function of the Dining Portal, Technology Committee and Touchtown.
11. Three new residents moved in during November and two are expected for December. All new residents receive hosts who provide orientation for life at Freedom Plaza. Marketing honored 2019 Hosts with a party, but not for 2020.

Secretary's Report: Janet Warren

1. The RAC Book of Minutes that will be housed in the FP Resource Room will contain minutes from RAC Council and Committee meetings for the year 2021. This reference book provides a means for residents to read the minutes if they are unable to access the RACRep.org website and eliminates the former system of passing to each resident a separate book located on each wing and GVT and managed by RAC Floor Representatives.
2. RAC Committee Secretaries, in general, have been filing excellent reports that follow Robert's Rules of Order and have asked for assistance when needed. Committee Chairs have been encouraged to submit minutes or a report on a monthly basis.
3. There is a need to consolidate the information on a number of pages in the Committee and RAC Handbooks with regard to reporting changes that occur almost monthly. The secretary will develop a new system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Statement Change: The VIP Committee requested a change to Number 5 of their responsibilities under their Mission Statement from "To hold monthly VIP Talking Book Club Discussion Groups assisted by a skilled facilitator from the Hillsborough County Library System" to "Offer facilitated VIP Talking Book discussions when possible". The Executive Committee approved the change. There were no objections from Council members.

Reports from Council Members

1. Tim Broad: Objects to the condescending way persons are directed by staff to stay in lines when waiting to go to dinner. Others have observed a chaotic situation caused by persons not adhering to COVID guidelines and a justifiable need to correct behaviors. President Sweet offered to contact the Dining Committee who could send a member to observe behaviors of groups not in line and make recommendations to the Dining Director. It was established there is a need to reeducate the residents on protocol for dining procedures.

2. Phyllis Black: Observed a problem with congestion in the dining waiting area with persons waiting for others to join them for their dining group. This again will be brought to the attention of the Dining Committee and Director, Teresa Lehman. There was a concern about congestion that exists around the mailboxes, but staff helped with this situation by moving the furniture appropriately. Another concern was that the hall benches were being moved and placed under the pictures. This presented a hazard to those sitting on the benches. President Sweet posed that residents were probably doing this and not housekeeping who knew the benches are not to be under pictures.
3. President Sweet asked RAC Reps to poll persons on their floor to determine what residents think is working well and what needs improvements. Also, he would like to know if residents are using the website RACRep.org to make management requests, read information or if they have suggestions for improvements. He will send a survey form to Council members. The information will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and used for goal setting.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2021 in the auditorium. This will precede the General Meeting which will be at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Warren, RAC Secretary