



Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. September 25, 2020

FP Auditorium

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

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

Guests: Tim Broad

Absent: Jean Aronson, Penny Boyne, Dennis Brady, Marianne Mott

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The August 28, 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 Sheila Martin.

President's Report: Ron Sweet

FP Management:

- In October, a Town Hall meeting will be held in the FP auditorium for a group of 50. Guidelines for group gatherings have gradually been changed to reflect improvement in the reduction of COVID-19. However, there is still a need for caution. We don't want to go through another shutdown. The Executive Committee recommends that no floor meetings should be held before January 2021. Rather, if the RAC Rep chooses they could hold a holiday "open house" where small groups would be present, wearing face masks and keeping a reasonable social distance among attendees.
- Budget meetings are in process and residents can expect a full report from Director Angie Roher once everything is complete. Recently, Freedom Plaza raised salaries for Associates to keep in line with what other local companies are offering.

- Management established a room on the third floor of the Plaza building where table tennis can be played. President Sweet is working with Director Angie Roher to resolve concerns expressed by third floor residents. Any change in plans would result in a loss of money already invested in the décor and to move the tables to the auditorium would present another set of concerns from residents.
- President Sweet commended VP Chambers, Maintenance Committee liaison, for working closely with Maintenance Director Siby Thadathil to improve the conditions of the grounds. Much progress has been made according to plans and, as well, concerns of residents have been addressed. Director Angie Roher plans to stay current with grounds keeping once the current projects for designated areas have been completed.

Council Activities:

- A memo, sent in August to Committee Secretaries and Chairs, outlined procedures for writing minutes according to Robert's Rules of Order. Committee Chairs and Secretaries have responded favorably to produce noticeable uniformity and consistency with minutes recently posted on RACRep.org.
- The Name The Turtle contest coordinated by VP Chambers provided an entertaining activity for residents and proved that over 300 residents have access to the RacRep.org website. President Sweet presented awards to Carolyn Clark, GVT and Janet Warren, Plaza Building Seventh Floor for having the most entries for the contest.
- VP Chambers will provide Orientation Training on September 25 for 2020-21 RAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries and will distribute a Committee Handbook providing information and outlining procedures. President Sweet encouraged different committees to work together across boundaries to resolve common concerns and facilitate projects.

Vice President's Report

Council Activities:

- Sheila Martin replaces Larry Piechoski as RAC Rep for 1 DE.
- Doug Atkins has served temporarily as a proxy at meetings for RAC Rep Marianne Mott who is resigning due to health challenges. Tim Broad has attended as a guest and is a possible replacement.
- Charles Willard furnished covers for the handbooks that will be distributed at the Orientation meeting for Committee Chairs and Secretaries to be held at 10:30 after the RAC Meeting.
- RAC Reps are responsible for the credenzas. There is a need to reconfirm this for for GVT. At GVT the bulletin board displays are furnished by the Community Activities Director Suzy Burt whereas for the Plaza Building RAC Reps use the trash room door and bulletin board to post notices.

- President Sweet and VP Chambers have designed the Name The Turtle site at RACRep.org. where residents posted their entries. Judges from Freedom Plaza sorted through 250 names to declare the winning name, “Aristurtle”. The project achieved two goals: to actively involve residents in a “fun” activity and to encourage residents to use the RACRep.org website as a source of information.

Mission Statements: Jeanne Nenarella moved, and Helen McAninch seconded that the Council accept the mission statements for the RAC Dining Services Committee and the RAC Casual Dining Sub-Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Requests from Council Members and Responses:

Carolyn O’Neill: Requested assistance with problems concerning the 1BC trash room, but problems have not been resolved. President Sweet: Suggested making contacts with specific committees for help, e.g. Maintenance Committee. Doug Atkins: Interior (apartment) maintenance is not part of the Maintenance Committee’s responsibility, but his Committee can work with FP Maintenance to resolve exterior concerns. President Sweet: Works, on a regular basis, with Director Angie Roher to address resident’s issues with interior and exterior maintenance, and if reported to him, he can present the situation for her to take action. She wants residents to be happy.

Phyllis Black: Problems exist in trash rooms regarding wet food garbage.

President Sweet: Will ask the Dining Director to issue a memo regarding appropriate disposal of garbage (uneaten food) and trash collection. This can be posted in the trash collection room.

Sheila Martin: There is dead grass around the building.

VP Chambers: Spray from chemicals has caused this and areas will be resodded if they have not recovered within a reasonable amount of time. Janis Harris: Noted that RACReps are the eyes and the ears of the community. Also, it is important to keep the president in the loop, so he can be proactive.

Bill Ciota: Water lilies are accumulating in the ponds and need clearance.

Doug Atkins: This problem has been addressed before by putting chemicals in the pond.

VP Chambers: There are regulations governing the amount of chemicals added to the pond. The problem is that rain dilutes the chemicals, so the contractor works to maintain a balance. President Sweet: The water lilies will disappear when the climate is cooler.

Carolyn Clark: The grounds at GVT building 8-9 are overwatered. There is a need to control the sprinklers. Doug Atkins: The Maintenance Committee will take note of all problems mentioned and provide assistance with exterior maintenance problems.

Jeanne Nenarella: The outside windows for floors 5-7 need cleaning. President Sweet: This was discussed at the recent Budget Meeting. Management has hired a company to clean the windows inside and out, but the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic has delayed the process.

Tim Broad: Commended Maintenance for using bricks and pebbles to line GVT walkways in order to prevent mulch from collecting on the sidewalks after rain.

RACREP.ORG WEBSITE:

President Sweet presented information about the purpose and content of RACRep.org. At least 300 residents have demonstrated an ability to use this site and instruction is available on request to those who need assistance to use it. It has become an excellent marketing tool for the sales department who is always striving to achieve 100% occupancy. The trend is to provide residents more information through technology, so watch for upcoming additions.

The Council commended President Sweet for his work in developing and maintaining the RACRep.org website and work with technology.

A motion to adjourn was made by Janis Harris, seconded and passed at 10:05 a.m.

The next meeting of the Council is October 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Council Secretary