



## **Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes**

Freedom Plaza Auditorium

January 22, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.

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

Members present via roll call: Jean Aronson, Phyllis Black, Jean Bonhaus, Penny Boyne, Tim Broad, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Bill Ciota, Carol Croll, Janet Blackshire proxy for Carolyn Clark, Janis Harris, Sheila Martin, Helen McAninch, David Mohl, Jeanne Nenarella, Carolyn O'Neill, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Absent: Carolyn Clark (excused)

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The December 4, 2021 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.

### **President's Report: Ronald Sweet**

- President Sweet commended the maintenance committee and grounds staff for their quick response to repairing the damage made to the grassy areas by large machines.
- Noted that additional features of TouchTown are under way and will soon be completed. Residents will have the option to be informed about dining choices, activities, committee projects, etc. via Alexa virtual personal assistant.
- COVID vaccinations administered to residents have progressed well without incident.

### **Vice President's Report: Sarah Chambers**

- Work with the Associate Appreciation Committee and Chair Janet Blackshire has resulted in a reorganization of the Committee's meeting schedule to conform to RAC procedures and a change in the amount of annual voluntary donations that will be recommended for residents. This will be communicated through a series of letters to Freedom Plaza residents.
- Janet Blackshire asked for approval from the Council to increase the previously recommended \$1.50 per day per person contribution established in 1992 to \$2.00 per day per person or \$60 per month. This action was approved by the Associate Appreciation Committee.
- MOTION: It was moved by Sarah Chambers and seconded by Helen McAninch that the Council approve the proposal from the Associate Appreciation Committee to revise the recommended individual resident contribution from \$1.50 a day to \$2.00 per day/\$60 per month.

DISCUSSION: Dave Mohl suggested that the proposed change might result in collecting more money than needed. Sarah Chambers responded that the number of associates may increase for the next year and there are fewer residents due to move-outs and decreased sales, so the change in the recommendation for donations could result with every associate getting the \$599 maximum bonus, a goal of the Committee. Tim Broad suggested that resident contributions could be less because some might have a negative attitude toward the new recommendations for donations. Janet Blackshire stated that donations are voluntary and confidential; residents give what they want to give or nothing. She reported last year there were 20 associates less than the year before and the committee raised \$20,000 more than last year. If everybody last year gave the same the amount for the coming year, it would take only 20 more people paying the recommended amount to reach the goal of raising \$200,000. People got more this past year because more money was raised, and 187 associates got the top amount of \$599. It would be good for all the associates to receive this bonus, but it is hard to predict how much will be received in each year. The proposal is to raise the recommended amount.

VOTE: The motion was restated and passed with 14 voting council members in favor and three opposed.

- VP Chambers has been working with President Sweet to establish the Black History Month Name that Person Contest on racrep.org and encourages participation. The process of submitting entries and learning about famous African Americans in History is explained on the website.
- VP Chambers worked with other members of the RAC Elections Committee, Dave Mohl and Jeanne Nenarella, to organize RAC Floor Representative elections. Forms with a place to volunteer or recommend someone for the job have been delivered to the residents in each of the floor areas by their current RAC Reps. Areas re-electing existing RAC Reps and ones who needed to choose a new RAC Rep all received the forms. All but two areas have RAC Reps who have volunteered to serve for another term or replaced by a new volunteer. Competitive elections will be held for floors 4DE and 3BC. The new RAC Reps will be installed at next month's Council Meeting. No Council officers have a term ending this year and none have indicated a desire to resign.

### **Secretary's Report: Janet Warren**

Secretary Warren clarified what was offered in five handbooks available on racrep.org and described revisions and updates in process for several: The Resident Association Council (RAC) Handbook, RAC Committee Handbook, RAC Orientation Handbook 2020, The Freedom Plaza Sun City Center Handbook (a management generated document given to new residents along with the contract), and the Freedom Plaza Safety and Emergency Information Handbook. RAC Reps are encouraged to furnish timely information from the handbooks that is relevant for current and new residents. There is a need to inform and provide instruction on how to access and use the information provided on [www.racrep.org](http://www.racrep.org) website and this information will be added to the appropriate handbooks and distributed to current residents, as well.

All RAC Council and Committee Minutes are posted in a timely manner on the racrep.org website and are placed in the RACPAC binder housed in the Resident Resource Room. Liaisons to RAC Committees are encouraged to support Committee Chairs and Secretaries to submit minutes or a status report each month in order to keep residents informed on a timely basis.

**Unfinished Business:**

Jean Aronson supplied a report on the status of the Dog Park proposal presented to the Council December 4. There have been some negative but a majority of positive comments and questions from residents to which she has responded.

MOTION: It was moved by Jean Aronson and seconded that the RAC Council present the Dog Park Proposal outlined at the December 4, 2020 meeting, to Freedom Plaza Management with the Council's recommendation that the project be started at the earliest possible time this year.

VOTE: The motion passed with the majority in favor, two opposed and one abstaining.

**New Business:**

President Sweet called for the results of the survey he requested from RAC Reps. They were asked to interview Residents on their assigned areas. The survey was centered on four questions:

1. Are you aware that Freedom Plaza has a Resident Association Council (RAC) that works for the benefit of residents?
2. If so, what do you feel RAC did well for you this year?
3. What has not worked as well this year and how can RAC better serve you?
4. What would you like RAC to do for you in the coming 2021 year?

The RAC Reps were polled and discussion pursued. President Sweet has provided a report on the results of the survey and what action will be taken. This is included as an addendum to the January 2021 minutes.

In response to a motion and second, President Sweet adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

The next Council meeting will be February 26, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the FP Auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,  
Janet Warren, RAC Secretary



## SUMMARY OF RAC REP SURVEY

In January 2021, your RAC carried out a survey. The RAC Reps asked a sample Residents about RAC's performance; what they liked and where RAC can improve. This is what we learned and what we will do.

These were the comments and suggestions:

RAC keeps me informed	RAC Supports the Residents
Love racrep.org	RAC makes sure movies are shown in my apartment.
Like the decorated credenzas	RAC provides updates and addresses concerns
RAC & Committees kept working through Covid-19	Is raprep.org secure?
Need larger Bulletin Boards in Trash Room	Concerns about GVT services
Need Channel 732 TV Guide	Want more exercise programs
Need more Technology help	Other FP Function and Clubs want a presence on racrep.org
When a Resident is ill can the other residents on the floor be advised?	

The first thing we learned from the survey is that due to Covid-19 restrictions many Residents are not clear about the work that is accomplished by RAC and the RAC Committees. We believe once the RAC General Meetings resume and the floor meetings start again, the Residents will become more aware of what RAC does. In addition, we are planning a series of orientation meetings for Residents who moved in during Covid to meet other Residents and receive information. When possible, A RAC Fair will be held to inform Residents about the work of RAC Committees and to see who might like to join a committee.

How secure is racrep.org? The home page of the site is not secure and does not have to be since no information is entered into the site. But once you click on a area that has input such as the Dining Portal or a comment form you enter a secure area that is protected by SSL software. The simple answer to the question is: YES the site is secure and all data entered is protected.

FP Management provides the current bulletin boards in the trash room, and it is unlikely that they will supply larger one. If your floor needs additional space for information, we will review it on a case-by-case basis.

As far as the concerns about GVT Services, both VP Chambers and I will be working with RAC Rep Tim Board about the issues raised and bring any issues we cannot resolve to FP Management.

As far as a TV Guide, ROC provides the programs. I will ask them if they can supply a regular schedule and a guide.

There is a need for more exercise programs. We do provide some on [racrep.org](http://racrep.org) and on FPN 732. I will ask the RAC Health Care Committee to see what additional exercise videos they can provide.

The RAC Technology Committee is in the process of coming up with a schedule of live presentations to help our Residents understand how to better use technology.

As far as [racrep.org](http://racrep.org) providing information about other clubs and functions, the plan is that soon we will add a new page with links to that information.

When someone on the floor was ill, RAC Reps were not informed. Under HIPAA all such information is kept private and confidential by management; however, RAC Reps could be aware of who is ill and act accordingly.

I thank all those that contributed to this Survey.

*Ron*

Ron Sweet  
RAC President