



Dining Services Committee Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2021, 10:30 AM

Club Room

Stan called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

Present: Stan Zarinsky (Dining Services Committee Chairman), Mike Anderson, Jean Aronson (RAC Rep), Anita Ciota, Louise Cochran, Janice Kimbro, Jim Price, Judy Schmidt, (Sub-Committee Acting Chair), Kathy Vore (Secretary), Chris Wynn (Chef), Ashley Ryckman (Grille Manager), Melissa (Melly) Aguilera (Dining Services Manager), and Pamela Evans, (Asso. Dir. Dining Services). Also in attendance: David Mohl, Resident guest.

Absent: Carolyn Deming and Theresa Lehman (Dining Services Director).

A quorum was present.

The minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Stan Zarinsky:

- Welcomed new Committee Member Anita Ciota; as well as Melissa (Melly) Aguilera, the new Dining Services Manager, and Pamela Evans, incoming Associate Director of Dining Services, both of whom will work closely with Theresa Lehman and Chef Chris;
- Received 69 online evaluations about Dining Services since last meeting, including 28 positive comments regarding specific menu items, 9 in-between, 11 negative responses, and 21 positive comments on service.

Election of Committee Officers: Stan Zarinsky was elected to continue as the Committee Chair. Kathy Vore was elected to continue as Secretary.

Janice Kimbro, Menu Chat: The Menu Chat attendance continues to grow in popularity as more Residents attend each week. The focus of that meeting is to seek input from Residents on the dinner menu planned for two weeks in the future.

Chef Chris Wynn:

- The current Menu format will be reviewed with an eye toward re-working it to include notations such as “spicy”, “vegan”, etc., while remembering the

need to keep the format simple; Residents Anita Ciota and Cyrille Cobe will collaborate with Theresa Lehman.

- Due to health safety concerns about Menu Chat meetings taking place in The Pub at tables pre-set for that evening's dinner, Menu Chat will soon move to the Club Room.
- An Americana Themed Menu is planned for Thursday, July 15, when Freedom Plaza celebrates its 29th Anniversary.

Comments by Committee Member Jim Price:

- Comments directed to Dining Room staff are not meant to be personal in nature;
- Hot pots currently used to serve tea spill too easily; Chef Chris thinks they are filled with too much water and will check on that;
- Need to increase the amount of specialty ice creams on order as the more popular flavors frequently run out;

Judy Schmidt, Casual Dining Sub-Committee:

- Announced three new Sub-Committee Members who are joining as of this month: Sandra Goldstein, Carolyn O'Neill and Jan Ulics.
- Judy presented several items regarding the Grille, initiating an excellent discussion as follows:
 - Ways to highlight the sale of Smoothies, including additional mentions in the Weekly as well as new signage in the Grille. Smoothie sales will continue on Wednesdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; Chris & Ashley agreed to consult with Theresa Lehman on the possibility of adding Smoothies to Wednesday mid-mornings as a breakfast item although some Committee members would like to see them offered all morning; we await feedback on this;
 - The current TV notice boards need to be more informative, i.e. screens need to change more frequently and have more daily information, i.e., what is the daily soup. Also, there is a need to have notices of specialty items, such as the Sunday evening specials, Thursday Turkey Dinner, etc.
 - Discussed using the wall outside the Grille – where the large clock is located – for additional advertising space to further highlight Grille food options;
 - All of these suggestions would not only give residents additional information, but have the potential to increase Grille traffic and therefore sales;

- On the subject of adding artwork throughout the Grille, Judy reached out to Tomi Reneau of the Art Club who expressed interest in displaying Residents' work on a rotating basis;
 - Judy will now contact Bob Cobe to assist in identifying sizes and locations for such works in the Grille;

Resident Visitor David Mohl: Provided a breakdown of the most popular Dining Room Entrees in June:

- 128 Baby Back Ribs on June 28;
- Taco Salad is now a consistently popular item.

The next meeting is set for the Club Room, Thursday, August 5, 10:30 AM.

The Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Vore, Secretary
Dining Services Committee



Casual Dining Sub-Committee Minutes
July 28, 2021 10:30 am
Club Room

Judy called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

Present: Judy Schmidt, Susan Scott, Jan Ulics, and Carolyn O'Neil.

Absent: Ashley Ryckman and Sandra Goldstein.

A quorum was present.

Judy welcomed new members and asked them why they had an interest in joining this committee. Answers varied from liking the food in the grille to wanting to make a difference in the current eating experience at Freedom Plaza.

We elected a chairman and secretary for the coming year. Judy Schmidt agreed to continue as chairman and Susan Scott agreed to remain as secretary.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved via email.

Judy mentioned the grille announcement in the July 2, 2021 issue of The Weekly and encouraged all of us to take note of future announcements.

Once again art work throughout the grille was discussed. Judy reported that the Art League of Freedom Plaza was excited about the project and would begin working on selecting art pieces to be used.

Suggestions for additions or changes to the grille operation were discussed. It was suggested that a pasta salad might be offered as a side dish. Another idea was to offer vegan food occasionally.

The next meeting will be August 25, 2021, at 10:30 am in the Club Room.
The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Scott, Secretary

