



## Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. September 24, 2021

Freedom Plaza Clubroom

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

Members present via roll call: Jean Aronson, Phyllis Black, Penny Boyne, Tim Broad, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Bill Ciota, Carolyn Clark, Carol Croll, Pat Gillis, Helen Halm, Janis Harris, Helen McAninch, David Mohl, Brigid Guarino proxy for Jeanne Nenarella, Al Roberts, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Absent: Carolyn O'Neill Guest: Letha Jones, Housekeeping Committee Chair

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

Motion to accept agenda. A request was made by RAC Representative Tim Broad to include two discussion items on the agenda. The first item concerned the recent standardization of the credenzas in the Plaza Building and at GVT. The second item concerned the problem of increased traffic incurred as a result of nonresidents' use of the pickle ball courts. A motion to adopt the amended agenda was made by V.P. Sarah Chambers and passed unanimously.

The July 2021 Council Meeting Minutes were previously approved via email distribution and response confirmed by Secretary Warren.

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

- New rules for dining were sent to residents yesterday and will be discussed at the General Meeting.
- During the past six months, the President and Vice President have discussed concerns about the decor of credenzas with Executive Director Angie Roher. RAC Reps were informed at the July Council meeting that they might no longer be in charge of decorating the credenzas. A forthcoming memo to residents from Executive Director Angie Roher stated that Management will be responsible for the purchase of decorations and their use for seasonal displays. This is a firm decision and she is not making exceptions.
- Given that the cost of living has increased 5.3%, residents have expressed concerns about an increase in the monthly service fee. No decisions have been made so far, but the issue has been discussed by Director Angie Roher, President Ron Sweet, the Finance Committee and Joey Mingione, Director of Finance. The increase in the monthly service fee could possibly be an increase of 6%.
- Concerns have been expressed about the removal of several mature and large trees in order to establish a paved temporary parking space for moving and delivery trucks at doors two and five. The plan was presented to the Maintenance Committee, but no

mention was made that the trees would be removed. It was expedient to do this at a date suddenly available to the contractor without giving residents a chance to respond before the action was taken. Director Angie Roher has assured residents that replacement trees will be planted this year.

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

- It is important to have continuity in order to make sure that a smooth transition of responsibilities occurs when new Committee Chairs, Secretaries, RAC Reps, and Executive Officers are elected to office. Ideally, training a potential replacement for a position should take place before an election.
- The RAC Holiday party will be held at the Plaza Club Friday, December 10. Volunteers who will plan and organize the RAC party are Sarah Chambers, Chair; Veanna Cape; Jean Aronson; and Janet Warren. Larry Chambers will assist.

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

- All Committees have been handing in minutes or a report each month and the quality of the minutes is to be commended.

#### **New Business:**

- President Sweet requested the formation of a committee to review the By-Laws and make recommendations based on his suggestions for revision. A By-Laws Committee consisting of V.P. Chambers, Chair; Tim Broad, Veanna Cape, and Helen McAninch will meet and report recommendations at the October Council Meeting.

#### **Requests from Council Members:**

- President Sweet opened the discussion regarding the two items added to the September Council Meeting Agenda. Points were made by Council members.
- Credenzas: President Sweet reiterated that Management has made a firm decision regarding the décor of the credenzas and there will be no exceptions.
- Tim Broad stated that management should make decisions based on two factors: safety and security. There is no reason why all the credenzas should be the same. People like their own individual expressions. President Sweet noted that residents are allowed to decorate their apartments and door alcove in any way they wish. The credenzas are in a common area that is owned by Freedom Plaza.
- V.P. Chambers explained in the past all the credenzas had the same décor and it was confusing to residents. This was remedied by contracting with a decorator who selected high quality items that were different for each credenza. In time, residents started making their own additions and the situation got out of hand. When each RAC Rep was given the responsibility only, there was some control over the décor. However, corporate visitors to the building in 2021 determined that the highly decorated credenzas did not represent Freedom Plaza positively with regard to attracting potential buyers. Director Roher asked if the Council members had been informed before sending out the notice and proceeded given that Council members were given ample notice to respond

before the decision was made.

- Carol Croll felt that the Director should have called a meeting for the RAC Reps and discuss the intention or sent out a letter to them explaining the decision, because at the time it was announced in RAC meetings she thought it “might happen” not that it would happen. V.P. Chambers and President Sweet reiterated that Council members were notified twice and should voice their concerns before decisions are made by management.
- Penny Boyne felt the joy and creativity has been taken from residents. Also, she did not relate to the décor at Freedom Plaza.
- Veanna Cape wanted a committee to ask Director Roher about refunding the RAC Reps for the expense of buying items to decorate the credenzas.
- Letha Jones, chair of the Housekeeping Committee observed that the housekeepers had a problem with the overdecorated credenzas which were difficult to keep clean.
- President Sweet asked for some conclusion to the discussion. Carol Croll moved to establish an ad hoc committee for the purpose of discussing further with Director Roher the decision that was made with regard to the décor of the credenzas. Tim Broad seconded with the provision that a three-person committee prepare for such a meeting. The vote by voting members was 6 for and 8 against with 2 abstaining. The motion did not carry.
- President Sweet suggested, in the absence of time, that he will meet with Tim Broad to see what can be done about the congested traffic at the pickle ball courts.

President Sweet adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m. in time for the Council to attend the General Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The RAC Council meets again on Friday, October 22, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor clubroom. The next General Meeting will be November 19, 2021 in the auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary