



Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. October 22, 2021

Freedom Plaza Clubroom

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

Members present via roll call: Glenn Spoerl proxy for Phyllis Black, Penny Boyne, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Bill Ciota, Carol Croll, Pat Gillis, Helen Halm, Janis Harris, Helen McAninch, Brigid Guarino proxy for Jeanne Nenarella, Al Roberts, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Absent Excused: Carolyn O'Neill, Phyllis Black, Jeanne Nenarella

Absent: Jean Aronson, Carolyn Clark, Tim Broad

Guest: Letha Jones

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The September 24, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes were previously approved via email distribution and response confirmed by Secretary Warren.

A motion to adopt the agenda was passed unanimously.

President Sweet administered the Oath of Office to RAC Representative Letha Jones 7BC who is filling a vacancy left by Dave Mohl.

President Sweet has appointed two new RAC Liaisons: Tim Broad, Racket Sports and Al Roberts, Technology

President's Report: Ronald Sweet

President Sweet asked all RAC Liaisons to contact RAC Committee Chairs to inform them they have a responsibility to attend the General Meeting November 19 or designate a representative. Committee Chairs need to hear what is covered in the meeting and it is important for residents to see the representation they have working for them.

President Sweet and members of the Finance Committee have been meeting with management to discuss an expected increase in the monthly fee for residents. There will be a one percent increase in addition to the 5.2 percent cost of living. An announcement will be made Thursday, October 28.

The recent gathering of dog owners and guests at the Muttini event was enjoyable. At this event it was announced that plans are proceeding to begin the construction of a dog park. This was proposed earlier by the Council and spearheaded by Jean Aronson. This project has been included in the Freedom Plaza plans for 2022.

The president meets every week or two weeks with the Executive Director Angie Roher to discuss current concerns expressed by the Council or Residents.

A recent concern is the closing of the Grill on Saturday. However, help is not available to even keep it open for purchasing shelved items. The staff has been decreased due to the Covid mandate to not hire unvaccinated persons, and those who remain are not responding to offers of overtime and bonuses to work additional hours. Residents have responded to serve as volunteers to help dining services with various operational tasks.

Vice President's Report: Sarah Chambers

The RAC Party Committee has issued the "Save the Date" RAC holiday party invitation to invited council members, committee chairs and guests. The theme of the party is "Santa's Workshop". All attendees will be asked to bring an unwrapped toy to give to the "Toys for Tots" charity. Toy table centerpieces will also be added to the charitable contribution.

RAC Rep elections will be in January. Bill Ciota has been appointed by Chair Sarah Chambers as a new member of the Elections Committee, replacing Dave Mohl. Veanna Cape is also a member of the committee. Terms of office for RAC Reps and Officers will be reviewed.

As Host Coordinator, VP Chambers reported that 26 new residents/couples have moved to Freedom Plaza during 2021. There are 13 closings for persons waiting to move in. Many of these new residents are active and have become productive members of the community.

By-Laws Review and Discussion:

At the September Council meeting, President Sweet requested the formation of an ad hoc By-Laws Committee to review the RAC By-Laws and make recommendations based on his suggested changes to the Standing Rules that were emailed to Council members for consideration prior to the September meeting. Vice President Chambers contested that no changes were needed for the By-Laws. However, Council members had questions and time limits did not allow for full response, so a By-Laws committee was established. Council members who volunteered were: Sarah Chambers, Chair; Tim Broad; Veanna Cape; and Helen McAninch.

The text of the recommended additions suggested by President Sweet and the text of the recommended additions by the By-Laws committee are as follows:

Recommended changes to Article V-Election of Council Members and Officers Section 2:

At the February Council Meeting, the newly elected RAC Reps and those RAC Reps and Council Members whose term did not end shall, where there is a vacancy, elect the president, vice president and secretary ~~each of whom shall be a Council Member at the time of initial election or appointment.~~ *Both the president and secretary shall be a Council Member at the time of initial election or appointment. The vice president may either be a Council Member or a RAC Committee Chair.*

The rationale for adding Committee Chairs as candidates is to enlarge the number of persons eligible for the position of vice president. Committee Chairs, already in complex leadership roles, have valuable experience that would qualify them for the role.

Proposed change by adding Section H: Term Limits

1. Although covered in various RAC documents this section provides a clear summary of term limits for all members of RAC:
 - (a) President, Vice President and Secretary: At the March Meeting these officers are installed for a 2-year term. The Officers may run for a second term for a total of 4 years. (Note: prior service on the Council does NOT affect the terms of these officers).
 - (b) Past President: Serves as a voting Council Member until there is another Past President.
 - (c) RAC Reps: RAC Reps serve as floor reps and Council members for 2 years starting in February of their elections/appointment date. RAC Reps may serve an additional 2-year term for a total of 4 years.
 - (d) Committee Chairs: Serve a 2-year term starting in July of the year of the Committee election. A Committee Chair may serve an additional 2-year term, if elected, for a total of 4 years. A Committee Chair's term is not affected by their prior service on a committee.
 - (e) Committee Members: Serve a 2-year term starting in July of the year of the Committee Election. A Committee Member may serve an additional 2-year term for a total of 4 years.
2. If the position of Officer, RAC rep, Committee Chair or Committee Member is filled during the year to replace a retiring member they are considered serving the balance of the current years of the term of the member they are replacing and this time on the Committee is not charged to them.
3. Any position may be extended by two thirds vote of the Council for an additional 2 years if special circumstances exist.

The rationale for adding Section H is to provide an easily accessed summary reference of term limits for RAC officers, representatives, committee chairs, and members; whereas at present this information is scattered among various places in the RAC and Committee Handbooks.

The By-Laws Committee reviewed President Sweet's suggested changes and additions, giving their reasons for rejecting all of them. They acknowledged the fact that it is difficult to get Council Members to step up to Vice President, but they recommended to not open up the V.P selection to Committee Chairs stating concerns about the difficulty of replacing a Committee Chair and the action could result in opening up the Council to unforeseen consequences.

They proposed two new changes to the By-Laws Standing Rules:

5.1 Any RAC member may serve as a non-voting advisor to the Committee at the invitation of the Committee Chair during that Chair's term.

5.2 Any Committee member whose terms are up may reapply to the same committee for membership at the next annual selection, i.e., a year after the current terms are up.

Discussion centered on the two proposed 5.1 and 5.2 provisions to the Standing Rules. Points were made during discussion:

- There was a request that proposed changes to the By-Laws, Standing Rules and relevant information should be sent out before the meeting so members are prepared for discussion.
- Input for Section H 1, 2, and 3 and Article 5, Section 2 was given by the By-Laws Committee, but was not opened for discussion by Council members.
- Did the Committee consider the difficulty or feasibility of recruiting persons as a nonvoter? Response: 5.1 refers to a committee member who has exceeded term limits but is invited to stay as a non-voting member.
- "RAC member" refers to a resident who holds a contract with Freedom Plaza for continuing care. Al Roberts moved that the By-Laws Committee should change the language of "RAC member" to resident. The motion second was not audible or identified. The motion carried and the By-Laws Committee will review and make any necessary changes to the wording of 5.1.
- There is a need to further clarify the process of granting an additional term for persons who have served four years. The By-Laws Committee will revisit the wording of 5.2.
- At the end of a two-year term, the Floor residents are given the opportunity to nominate and vote for another RAC Rep.

The secretary will send to Council members, the By-Laws Committee Chair's report and minutes, a copy of the By-Laws, and the October minutes with a delineation of all proposed provisions to the Standing Rules. The Council is asked to be prepared to discuss further and vote accordingly at the November meeting.

President Sweet adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The RAC Council meets again on Friday, November 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor clubroom. The next General Meeting will be November 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary