



## **Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes**

9:00 a.m. November 19, 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, Tim Broad, Veanna Cape, Sarah Chambers, Carol O'Brien proxy for Bill Ciota, Sue Batt proxy for Carolyn Clark, Carol Croll, Pat Gillis, Helen Halm, Janis Harris, Helen McAninch, Letha Jones, Jeanne Nenarella, Carolyn O'Neill, Al Roberts, Ron Sweet, Janet Warren.

Excused Absences: Penny Boyne, Bill Ciota, Carolyn Clark, Janis Harris

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The October 22, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes were previously approved via email distribution and response by 15 Council members confirmed by Secretary Warren.

A motion from Sarah Chambers to adopt the agenda was passed unanimously.

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

President Sweet reports that much happens each day, but he and Director Angie Roher have stayed on top of it.

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

Several RAC Representatives have completed their four-year terms of office.

Bill Ciota. Carol O'Brien is a candidate for 3DE RAC Rep

Phyllis Black. Floor 2DE will need a new RACRep

Jean Aronson. Her move to GVT Building 10 leaves a vacancy for GVT Building 5 and 6.

Letters will be sent to the floors informing residents of the status of their floor RACReps.

Those who have completed two-year terms may volunteer to continue as a Floor RACRep,

However, there is a provision that other persons on the floor may volunteer. In that case,

an election is held to choose a RACRep for the next two-year period in office.

### **Unfinished Business:**

During the October Meeting, the By-Laws Committee presented recommendations to support two changes to the Standing Rules under G. Committees.

- 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 his terms are up.

After discussion, the Council voted to change the language of RAC member to Resident. At the request of the Council, the By-Laws Committee agreed to clarify the process of granting an additional term for persons who have served four years. The revisions were slated for vote during the November Council meeting.

The By-Laws Committee rejected the proposed changes to the Standing Rules Article V Election of Council Members and Officers, Section 2: *“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”*. There was not time left in the meeting to pursue this via discussion.

Al Roberts sent an email to Council members prior to the November Council meeting stating that there appeared to be some support for the above change in the Standing Rules which broadens the selection of candidates for Vice President by adding Committee Chairs to the pool, and this warrants further discussion. The topic was opened for discussion and the following pro and con points were made:

Including Committee Chairs in the election process increases the opportunity to find more well-qualified candidates willing to serve in the position of Vice President. Committee Chairs have demonstrated solid leadership skills as evidenced in the work they have accomplished with their committee members.

Council members are more qualified because they have been involved in the function of the Council and know how it operates. This assumes that the Committee Chair would need to know about the function of the Council and how to be the Vice President before election and assumes that Council members already have the knowledge and leadership skills to be the Council Vice President.

Council members represent a larger group of residents on floors whereas Committee Chairs work with a limited group. This doesn't recognize that Committee Chairs work closely with management departments and in many aspects, represent the entire Freedom Plaza Community. (e.g. Housekeeping, Maintenance, Dining, etc. all receive comments from all residents via RACRep.org and other sources and Committee Chairs act on these complaints, suggestions, and concerns.)

Newly elected RACReps who are replacing Council Members are installed at the February Council Meeting. Then the President, Vice President and Secretary are elected by this body of new and continuing RACReps at the same meeting. A concern was expressed that new RACReps would not be as informed as continuing RACReps as to who would be the best VP candidate. However, this is the election procedure.

There are specific duties for the Vice President. The candidate must be willing and able to accept the responsibility for these duties (e.g. election organization for the Council and Committees, Committee Fair, etc.) Those on the Council could possibly understand the role better but may not be available; thus including Committee Chairs increases the number of candidates. A foundation has been laid from previous elections to provide guidance for the various duties of the VP., and these procedures can be shared with whomever takes office, Council Member or Committee Chair.

RAC Representatives are not chosen for their potential to be an officer on the RAC Council but for other reasons such as ability to work with and help other people on the floor. Thus any candidate would find a need to learn the responsibilities associated with being an officer.

Could reword the By-Laws to state that if no one on the Council would take the position of VP, then the Committee Chairs would become eligible. Enlarging the field provides more choice.

Al Roberts moved that the By-Laws Committee review again the proposal that other Residents should be considered as well as Council members for the position of Council Vice President. Veanna Cape seconded. The By-Laws Committee will discuss the viability of expanding the pool of candidates and if so how. They will report their findings to the Council in January 2022 at which time the Council will vote their preference. The motion passed with two opposed and one abstaining.

**New Business:**

The By-Laws Committee presented the rewording for Standing Rule 5 under G. Committees. VP Chambers moved that the Council accept this standing rule as stated. Al Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*5. A Committee member is selected for a term of two years. A member may choose to serve a second consecutive two-year term on that committee, for a total of four years. A third two-year term is only available at the request of the committee chair and with the approval of a majority vote of the Council.*

VP Chambers moved that the Council accept the rewording of Standing Rule 5.1. Al Roberts seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

VP Chambers moved that the Council accept the rewording of Standing Rule 5.2. Carolyn O'Neill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*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 his terms are up.*

President Sweet adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

The RAC Council meets again on Friday, January 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor Clubroom. The next General Meeting will be Friday, January 28, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the Freedom Plaza auditorium.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary