



Ch.O.

Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. May 26, 2023

Freedom Plaza Clubroom

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

Council members present via roll call: Alice Aragon, Veanna Cape, Ron Carter, Carolyn Clark, Pam Cummings, Janis Harris, Doug Heym, Al Hurlbrink, Letha Jones, Joyce McCutcheon, Jeanne Nenarella, Carol O'Brien, Al Roberts, Chuck Roth, Sue Schuldt, Ron Sweet, Kathy Vore, Janet Warren

Excused Absences: Don Vore, Nuri Georges

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The April 28, 2023 RAC Council Meeting Minutes were previously approved via email distribution and response by a majority of Council members confirmed by Secretary Warren.

Veanna Cape moved and Al Roberts seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

President's Report and Discussion: Ron Sweet

Several issues the past month concerned transportation. Based on suggestions, management established a corporate account with Uber and Lyft to fill after-hours transportation requests from residents. Residents are requested to call the front desk for after-hours transportation, who will then call one of the two agencies. Uber and Lyft will bill Freedom Plaza for services which the resident will approve by signature and Freedom Plaza will bill the resident. Residents need to check with the driver to see if a tip is included on the bill. Residents are encouraged to schedule transportation requests within the 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. time frame allowed for Freedom Plaza transportation; however, Freedom Plaza will allow for a reasonable extension based on the circumstances.

President Sweet wrote to Mary Mackey, Regional Director, to commend the Freedom Plaza staff for their immediate response to engage in planning and inform residents of the recent water safety emergency situation involving the Hillsborough County water supply.

President Sweet asked for a volunteer to fill the vacancy of the RAC Vice President effective July 2023. The Vice-President must be a member of the RAC Council elected by the Council, and would agree, ideally, to run for RAC president in February, 2024. There were no volunteers.

There are several RAC Liaison vacancies which must be filled. Carol O'Brien will fill the liaison vacancy for the Administrative Services Committee.

Vice-President's Report: Veanna Cape

V.P. Cape reported that residents responded to submit requests to be on RAC Committees and there appear to be several available for each committee. The Elections Committee will be meeting on June 12, 2023 to count and organize the requests and thereafter will inform RAC Committee Chairs. She will be making a presentation at the May RAC General Meeting which follows the Council Meeting.

Council Members' Reports and Discussion:

President Sweet asked Al Roberts, RAC Committee Chair for Finance, to share information from the last committee meeting. The Committee gets yearly reports and outreach statements regarding the separate facilities every month, so they know how the corporation is doing regarding aspects of profit and loss. There is a certain amount of depreciation involved; however, overall there is a positive report in regard to cash flow. The committee monitors the capital expenditures involved with the various 13 communities and Freedom Plaza, considered a prime community, has been allotted funds to complete several planned renovations by 2024. Freedom Plaza has been showing a net operating income for the first four months of the year, which has not always been the case in the past.

Carol O'Brien asked for clarification of the Freedom Plaza Pet Policy. In general, residents with pets are encouraged to select an apartment on the first floor, however exceptions have been made. It appears that more and more residents are moving in with animals on other floors. A problem is that people can pay on-line for an "official paper" signed by a veterinarian or psychiatrist, that declares their pet as a "service dog" or an "emotional support dog". President Sweet stated that challenging the authenticity of these papers can lead to a civil law suit which Freedom Plaza does not want. The suggestion was made that residents should be required to take their pet to a local veterinarian to issue a special needs document, however as the law stands at present, the legislature would need to make changes in the law for Florida. Several years ago, attorneys declared to Freedom Plaza that they have to operate within the existing laws.

The question was asked: How do we know when a person is in the hospital? This is private information that Freedom Plaza does not furnish except to publish the fact via the Memory Table by the post office boxes. Sometimes persons on the floor or in the building have information they can share with the RAC Representative.

RAC Representatives reported positive experiences while working with new residents on their floor and building.

Jeanne Nenarella reported that dinner napkins have been thrown into the garbage bins on her floor and she is trying to find out who is doing this. She suggested including a reference in the weekly publications to discourage this and to suggest a positive solution to the problem.

Pam Cummings has made a request to maintenance for a clean-up and needed painting for the trash/storage\ room on her floor, but has had no result. President Sweet advised her to fill out a form on-line, because the request will be sent to many persons, such as department heads, RAC Committees and the RAC President who can help her get results.

Janis Harris moved and Veanna Cape seconded that the meeting adjourn at 9:38 a.m. in time to attend the RAC General Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

The next Council meeting will be on June 23, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor Club Room.

The next RAC General meeting will be July 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the Auditorium.

Addendum: At the RAC General Meeting, Iris Martin, Director of Marketing, and RAC Housekeeping and Administrative Services Committee Chairs presented reports of their activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary