



Ch.O.

Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. September 22, 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, Pam Cummings, Nuri Georges, Letha Jones, Doug Heym, Joyce McCutcheon, Carol O'Brien, Al Roberts, Chuck Roth, Susie Schuldt, Ron Sweet, Kathy Vore, Janet Warren, Don Vore Technician.

New RAC Representative: Bill Turcotte

Proxy: Carl Lingertot for Carolyn Clark

Excused Absences: Carolyn Cark, Jeanne Nenarella, Janis Harris,

The roll call confirmed a quorum.

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

Joyce McCutcheon moved and Veanna Cape seconded to adopt the agenda. The motion was carried unanimously.

President Sweet administered the RAC Representative's Oath of Office to Bill Turcotte for Floor 1BC. He fills the vacancy left by Al Hurlbrink.

President's Report: Ron Sweet

President Sweet noted that Director Angie Roher has sent memos to residents about + changes in Dining Services and the date of notification to individual residents for monthly rent increases. She invites any with concerns to see her about any requests for adjustments. The current plan is to issue increases on the first of the anniversary month.

He has worked with Angie to determine that no changes will be made in the distance for residents' transportation to medical appointments. There will still be a charge for transportation to personal appointments at hair salons, etc.

Vice President's Report: Joyce McCutcheon

At the August Council meeting, President Sweet called for volunteers in order to establish an ad hoc By-Laws Committee to review recent changes in Florida Statute Chapter 651.

Changes were made in FS 651.011 to add definitions for a "designated resident representative" and for "residents' council." Changes were made in FS 651.091 to add the purpose of a residents' council and a directive to elect a designated resident representative who would attend budget meetings when called by the provider.

VP McCutcheon was appointed chair and was joined by Ron Carter and Veanna Cape to meet together and present findings and recommendations at the September Council meeting. Council members were sent the document via email to read before the September Council meeting. Changes noted in the document were highlighted in red and deletions were struck-through.

For clarity, the following is a paraphrased description of FS Chapter 651 changes: Specifically under consideration was the directive **651.081 (2)** to “nominate and elect a *designated resident representative* to represent them (all residents) before the governing body of the provider on matters specified in subsection (3).” The designated resident representative would “be elected to serve at least 12 months”, “must be a resident” as defined in s 651-001, but “does not have to be a current member of the residents’ council.”

Under **651.085 (3)** “The designated resident representative shall be notified by a representative of the provider at least 14 days in advance of any meeting of the full governing body at which the annual budget and proposed changes or increase in resident fees or services are on the agenda or will be discussed. The designated resident representative shall be invited to attend and participate in that portion of the meeting designated for the discussion of such changes. Designated resident representatives shall perform their duties in good faith. For providers that own or operate more than one facility in the state, each facility must have its own designated resident representative.”

The By-Laws ad hoc committee compared the Florida Statute directives with what has already been established at Freedom Plaza and in place with regard to the Resident Association Council (RAC) By-Laws, operating agreements, policies and operating procedures. At Freedom Plaza the elected RAC President has always served in the capacity of a designated resident representative who not only meets every two weeks or more as issues arise with the Director and at times additionally with representatives from the LCS corporate structure, but also in tandem with the RAC Finance Committee and Chair who is also involved with budget meetings each year along with the RAC president and corporate representatives. Whereas in other communities there may be or may not be a designated representative or president who is invited to annual corporate budget meetings. The intent of the statute changes is to ensure that residents are represented to express their concerns and requests relating to the budget and fiduciary issues as well as for other issues that rise.

VP McCutchen presented an overview of the changes mandated by FS 651 long with findings from the Committee. At the present time, there does not appear to be a need to change the By-Laws with regard to Purposes. For example: RAC Purpose One states: Ensure that both RAC and management are at all times in conformity with Chapter 651 of the Florida Statutes. RAC Purpose Six states: Review and respond to proposals by management for changes in facilities or services (which can be construed to refer to any budgetary proposals or changes). RAC Purposes 5 states: Take necessary action to address all significant matters not resolved at the Committee level. Pursue and resolve such matters with the executive director of Freedom Plaza, or, if necessary, corporate-level management. All other purposes relate to the liaison function

of the RAC President, RAC Committees and Chairs. Although the word budget does not appear, it is implied. The By-Laws are in compliance with the FS 651.011 definition of Residents' Council. An addition is needed with regard to including the role of the designated representative.

Discussion was as follows. At present and in the past, the RAC president has served as a "designated representative" to budget meetings, however there is a need to decide whether this should continue and the term incorporated into the By-Laws under the responsibilities of the President or to add a "designated representative" determined by election who would attend budget meetings along with the RAC President and RAC Finance Chair. The person would need to be one who has business and finance experience in order to best serve the interests of the residents at large.

Al Roberts suggested that an additional person could be advantageous in that it "provides more coverage." He favored pursuing the election of a person other than the president. Secretary Warren expressed that the president is involved completely in all issues and concerns involving residents and that presence is critical for any decision making regarding budgetary needs and changes. Whether the designated representative would attend monthly Council Meetings or RAC Finance Committee meetings in order to be more fully informed or be involved in other matters, would need to be determined.

Given that the current President will have served a four year term and a new president will be elected in February 2024, the By-Laws Chair and Committee recommended tabling any action at this time. However, the goal was set to take action within the next six months. President Sweet and Council members agreed.

Secretary's Report: Janet Warren

Since May 16 there have been 10 move-ins and 13 closings waiting to move-in. Council members verified move-ins.

Sue Schuldt suggested that RAC Reps be informed of the person or persons who are working with the person moving into their area of responsibility. President Sweet and Secretary Warren will talk with management to see that this information is provided. In response to her question about Freedom Plaza renting out rooms, President Sweet informed that new move-ins sometimes sell their houses and need a place to stay while their apartment is still under renovation, but no rooms are rented for profit.

President Sweet called for a vote for the name of the RAC Orientation Handbook. Veanna Cape moved and it was seconded to call the Handbook, "The Insider", instead of the "Insider's Scoop". The motion passed.

RAC Council meeting dates for the fall are:

Friday, October 27th Council 9:00 a.m.

November: no meetings

Friday, December 1st Council 9:00 a.m. and General meeting 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 1st RAC Holiday Party at the Plaza Clubhouse 4:30 p.m.

All Council meetings are held in the Third Floor Club Room and General meetings are held in the auditorium.

As there was no further business, Carol O'Brien moved and Kathy Vore seconded that the meeting adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary