



Resident Association Council Meeting Minutes  
9:00 a.m. October 27, 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, Nuri Georges, Letha Jones, Janis Harris, Doug Heym, Joyce McCutcheon, Jeanne Nenarella, Carol O'Brien, Al Roberts, Chuck Roth, Sue Schuldt, Ron Sweet, Bill Turcotte, Kathy Vore, Janet Warren  
Guest: FLICRA Representative Sondra Thorson  
Excused absence: Don Vore  
The roll call confirmed a quorum.

The September 22, 2023 RAC Council Meeting Minutes were previously approved via email distribution and response by a majority of Council members confirmed by Secretary Warren.

A motion to adopt the agenda was carried unanimously.

**Unfinished Business:**

At the September Council Meeting, Council members discussed the changes made in FS 651.011 which added definitions for a “designated resident representative” and “residents council” and the directive to elect a designated resident representative who would attend budget meetings when called by the provider. The appointed By-Laws Committee consisting of Joyce McCutcheon, Chair, Ron Carter and Veanna Cape reported that there does not appear to be a need to change the By-Laws with regard to the first Purpose of RAC which states: “Ensure that both RAC and management are at all times in conformity with Chapter 651 of the Florida Statutes”. The By-Laws committee compared the Florida Statute directives with what has already been established at Freedom Plaza with regard to RAC By-Laws, operating agreements, policies and operating procedures. The RAC president has in the past served in the capacity of a designated resident representative attending all budget meetings and meeting weekly with the Executive Director Angie Roher about any pressing issues that needed to be addressed. There is a need for the RAC Council to decide whether the RAC president should be elected to continue serving in the defined role as the designated resident representative or if an additional person should be elected to attend budget meetings.

After much discussion, with Al Roberts, Janis Harris, Kathy Vore, Joyce McCutcheon, Veanna Cape and Ron Sweet submitting position points, Al Roberts volunteered to be Chair of an ad-hoc committee consisting of RAC Council members who will review the FS directive further and report recommendations to the RAC Council. He asked to select the Committee members.

Letha Jones moved and Kathy Vore seconded that Al is named Chair of an ad-hoc committee consisting of Council members he chooses as participants. The motion passed unanimously. Doug Heym opposed and submitted that Al Roberts should not be limited to selecting only Council members as participants. There was no amendment to the motion.

A goal for the ad-hoc Committee is to submit recommendations for a selection and election process that will result in picking the most qualified candidate to fill the role of designated resident representative regardless of his or her other roles and to recommend appropriate changes in the RAC By-Laws and Standing Rules.

FLICRA, who actively lobbies for seniors in continuing care communities, has shown interest in the decision-making process and their ideas will be considered. However, as the formal “eyes, ears, and voice of the Freedom Plaza residents” as suggested by Janis Harris, the RAC Council is charged with the final decisions regarding the qualifications and election of the designated resident representative who will be elected by the RAC Council.

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

Secretary Warren asked liaisons to facilitate the collection of September RAC Committee minutes from those who have not responded.

In September and to date in October, there were ten closings and eight move-ins. There were two closings that resulted in cancellations. She distributed a matrix of marketing data for Council members to review and check for accuracy. There were eight RAC Reps involved in providing assistance to new residents moving to their community. Chuck Roth reported that there were eight empty apartments on his floor.

The annual RAC dinner party will be Friday, December 1 at the Plaza Club. Busses will arrive to transport invitees from the Plaza Building and GVT at 4:15 and 4:20 respectively. There will be appetizers and a bar offered during the social hour from 4:30-5:15 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. The party theme features a “Starry Night at the RACademy Awards”. There will be a glam photo shoot, mixers, entertainment and music for dancing. The Freedom Plaza chef is preparing a gourmet dinner which is charged as a regular meal allowance. Attendees can bring one guest. Red Carpet attire is requested.

The RAC party committee members Sue Schuldt, Veanna Cape and Chair Janet Warren promise much fun in store to celebrate all of our volunteers who are guiding stars in service for the best interests of our residents. Invitations will be sent out to RAC Council members, RAC Committee Chairs and four FP Management Directors who are allowed one guest. Invitations will be sent during the first week in November and an RSVP is requested by November 15.

## **New Business:**

President Sweet announced that none of the RAC Reps are terming out however there are RAC Reps who are leaving office and will need replacements. Carolyn Clark and Jeanne Nenarella are termed out. Chuck Roth, Nuri Georges, and Janet Warren as secretary and RAC Rep will be leaving. Kathy Vore is undecided. Joyce McCutcheon has resigned as vice-president but will continue as a RAC Representative for her floor. Several persons shared that they are having problems getting a replacement for the RAC Rep position. All will be given a letter to distribute to floor or building residents informing them of the election process of filling vacancies. President Sweet asked to inform him of who will be running for president, vice-president, or secretary. All of those positions will be vacant as of February 2024.

President Sweet reported several persons have asked if an informal place for eating can be established for Sundays. Those who play golf on that day would like to have a more relaxed dress code. Veanna C. and Bill T. reported that residents would like to get food from the buffet and eat at the Pub. Bill T. suggested that the Dining Committee should be involved in designing a new dress code, however the consensus was to delay this until there are more definitive guidelines for dining service which promises to be in place early next year. Ultimately, the Council will need to develop a dress code that is in line with the revised dining services.

The RAC Finance Committee submitted a request to approve their new mission statement and responsibilities. Al Roberts, representing the Finance Committee, explained the intent was to define the mission statement and responsibilities more accurately in terms of what the Finance Committee actually does at this time as on-going business and he explained each facet to the Council. .

Doug Heym moved and Bill Turcotte seconded to approve the RAC Finance Committee's Mission Statement and Responsibilities as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next RAC Council Meeting will be December 1, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. The RAC General Meeting will be in the Auditorium at 10:00 a.m.

The annual RAC Dinner Party will be December 1 @ 4:30 p.m. at the Plaza Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Warren, RAC Secretary