



Dining Services Committee Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2024, 2:30pm
Club Room

Chair Anita Ciota called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Present: Mike Anderson, Gary Ashcraft, Phil Bethea, Janice Kimbro, Carol O'Brien, Eileen Robbins, MaryAnn Wellander, Jaime Simoes, (Executive Chef), Theresa Lehman (Dining Services Director), and Pamela Evans (Assistant Dining Services Director). Susan Scott attended on behalf of Judy Schmidt (Dining Services Sub-Committee Chair).

A quorum was present, and the Agenda and the minutes from the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair Anita Ciota introduced new member Gary Ashcraft (replacing Al Hurlbrink who is no longer able to serve for health reasons).

Jaime Simoes, Executive Chef:

- **Staffing – the newest Sous Chef Shakeena is working out well, quickly getting up to speed in less than a week; unfortunately, a different Sous Chef gave notice after only five months and will leave at the end of the week;**
- **Chef and Theresa are considering searching for an executive Sous Chef who would bring more extensive experience to the kitchen;**

Theresa Lehman, Dining Services Director:

- **New Dining Program rollout overall is going well;**
- **In February just over 9,000 meals were served with about 3,900 of those in Premier Dining;**
- **Reviewed individual menu item counts for Premier, Sports Bar, Buffet and Grille venues:**
 - **Sports Bar menu will likely be revised after four months;**
 - **The Patty Melt, Pork Sliders and Smothered Tenders are very popular;**
 - **The Cheese Board will be tweaked to possibly add some type of meat and veggies, but will remain on the menu;**
 - **Sunday Brunch served about 390 in February;**
 - **Evening Buffet:**

- Has been hit or miss with French and Greek nights having the best response;
- Participation gradually increasing in general;
- Unfortunately, Premier Dining suffers when Buffet attendance is low;
- IRD deliveries are down as more residents are coming in person to dine; medical deliveries are also currently lower.

Chair Anita Ciota with Theresa Lehman:

- Received a total of 161 survey responses in February through RAC website; favorability ratings (with “5” being excellent) include: 83.9% excellent food quality and 75.7% excellent food variety;
- Dining received 180 February survey responses through response cards and QR codes reflecting 84.3% excellent food variety.

Janice Kimbro, Menu Chat Report:

- Complimented Theresa on her presentation in this week’s Town Hall that answered resident dining concerns and questions.

Susan Scott for Judy Schmidt, Casual Dining Sub-Committee Chair, American Grille and Sports Bar:

- Thanked the Freedom Plaza Art League for rotating its quarterly art display throughout the Grille;
- Breakfast specials pricing is inconsistent between front and inside menu covers; per Theresa this will be addressed next month;
- Bakery items in the front case are selling faster than they can be restocked.

Old Business:

- Dress Code question will be returned to the RAC Council for review and possible update to accommodate different dining venues.
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New Business:

- Several Dining Committee members will reach end of term in July including Janice Kimbro, Kathy Vore and Judy Schmidt.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 2:30 PM, Club Room.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:35 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Vore, Secretary**