

Recreational Amenities Committee (RAC)  
Minutes of Meeting, Friday, February 7, 2003

The meeting began at 9:05 a.m.

Roll call by Co-Chair Carol Chapman: Present were: Shirley Andren; David Berman; Mike Carey; Carol Chapman; Bob Collins; Susan Fried; Ginny Hermann; Alan Klein; José Madrid; Bill Marshall; Larry Minnick; Roy Montambeau; Lyndall Ruiz; Dick Sovde; Jack Sullivan; Sherm Uchill; Jeanne Zorick.

David Berman, Chair of the Information Team, said he believes the information program has been going smoothly, relying primarily on electronic distribution of minutes, agendas and other news through our e-mail list, through the online Anthem Compendium, and via the monthly RAC Chronicle distributed with the Spirit newsletter.

Using information provided by the various data-gathering teams, Mike Carey prepared a slide presentation which was, essentially, a draft of the presentation RAC will make at the February 17 and 19 residents meetings. As Mike showed the slides, several RAC members gave the comments they will make at those meetings:

Larry Minnick, Chair of the Data Gathering Teams, described how four teams were created to investigate the needs of the community and report their findings to RAC. The Senior Citizen Resources Team explored facilities similar to Sun City Anthem. The Senior Citizen Research Team talked to many outside experts, such as AARP and specialists at universities. The Survey Resource Team conducted community focus groups and compiled/analyzed data from sources such as suggestion forms, club requests and presentations, and the Del Webb-administered all-residents survey. And the FacilCost Study Team analyzed the data collected by the former FacilCost group.

Sherm Uchill, Chair of the Survey Resource Team, said the age profile of Sun City Anthem residents is now in the low 60s. He said almost all residents use Anthem Center for some purpose at least once a week, and that the Fitness Center receives the most participation by far. Sherm said that 179 specific ideas came from the forms deposited in our suggestion boxes, and that residents submitted 556 valid survey forms.

Larry Minnick pointed out that no single source of information will be used to prepare RAC's final list of requests. All sources will be considered in developing a package of requests that are best for the entire community.

In order to apply standards to the process of determining amenities for the new facilities, the committee unanimously voted to adopt the following criteria (not listed by priority): popularity; future maintenance costs; efficient utilization of space; experience of other communities and research on senior living; flexibility of use; efficient scheduling; current use/needs of existing clubs; absolute need (can the activity be done somewhere else?); common sense.

RAC Co-Chair Dick Sovde reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings:

Monday and Wednesday, February 17 and 19: RAC will present its proposed requests at three meetings each day, 9:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25: RAC will receive community feedback at a 7:00 p.m. meeting, and will fine-tune the requests.

Friday, March 7: Presentation of the final report at a 9:00 a.m. meeting.

Bob Collins of the Survey Resource Team discussed the results of the all-residents survey and described the process he used to weight and rank the responses. He said that at least 385 responses were needed for the results to be statistically valid, He said that based upon our total population, the 556 total responses exceeded the 385 responses required for the results to be statistically valid. Among those who responded to the survey: 91% are primary residents; 7% are snowbirds; the average age was 63+; 5% are younger than 55; 19% are over 70.

By a great margin, Bob said, fitness activities were at the top of the requested amenities on the survey, with specific fitness activities such as cardio and weight room occupying the majority of the top 10 most-requested amenities.

Ginny Hermann, Chair of the FacilCost Study Team, said the requests can be clustered into a number of categories: Fitness Center; water-related; woodworking; arts & crafts; sewing & quilting; table tennis; billiards; aerobics & dance; ceramics/porcelain/pottery; kitchen for community gatherings; multi-purpose space for clubs and activities that do not require dedicated space.

Ginny also noted that several of the categories require separate definition and clarification. For example:

Fitness definition includes cardio, weight training, stretching and walking track.

Gymnasium definition includes team sports, special flooring, high ceiling.

Water activity definition includes indoor pool, Jacuzzi, therapy pool, sauna and competitive swimming.

Performing arts definition includes acting, shows, lecture hall, music.

It was noted that the package of requests in no way addresses such considerations as adaptability of resident requests, budget constraints, and space allocation, as these are all elements that will have to be discussed with the developer and the architect as the project moves forward.

An initial list of suggested specifications and features for consideration by the architect will include the following: maximum flexible space; interior finishes requiring the lowest-cost maintenance; storage bins for all chartered clubs; adequate storage closets for various types of table; moveable walls with highest-possible soundproofing; stub-outs for future electrical, plumbing and mechanical; footings for 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Annex expansion; minimized circulation loss.

Roy Montambeau, Chair of the Senior Citizen Research Team, listed five amenities that require additional discussion and research, some of which may be included in the request package:

Gymnasium. Selected by one-quarter of the survey respondents. Must be clarified as to what activities would be suitable for a gym. Many members, when visiting the Fitness Center, simply say they are going to the gym.

Indoor Pool. Can increased demand be met by more-efficient scheduling at the existing pool?

Performing Arts. Can we modify the existing ballroom for performing-arts activities, and will performing-arts amenity in the Annex drain space from other deserving activities?

Metalworking. Exactly what type of metalworking projects would be contemplated for dedicated space? Can it be included with woodshop?

Library. Does this imply a space with shelves to hold books, or something in the nature of a lounge?

During open discussion among RAC members, it was asked if addition of space for existing clubs should be given priority over requests for new activities, with woodworking given as an example. Co-Chair Carol Chapman replied that members of the unchartered Wood Chips woodworking Club had been expressing interest in a woodworking room for at least two years and have, to date, enlisted 144 members interested in that activity.

RAC member Susan Fried stated her belief that the existing indoor swimming pool will be insufficient as our population grows, and expressed the hope that another indoor pool will be included in the amenities, even if it is smaller than the present one.

RAC member Mike Carey, who has been working as a Fitness Center monitor, said he's seen firsthand how difficult it is to please people, as he constantly receives complaints that the temperature of the indoor pool is either too hot or too cold, with something in the middle seeming to satisfy no one. He also noted that the new Henderson Multi- generational Center has excellent swimming and diving facilities, with a fee of only \$1.00 required to use the pools. He added that it is not always easy for an individual to be able to swim there, as school swimming teams and clubs have priority, due in part to the fact that the Clark County School District contributed \$2 million toward the cost of the facility.

RAC member Jeanne Zorick said she is a lap swimmer and has had no problems finding space to use in our existing indoor pool. Another member said that Sun City Anthem residents want their facilities here, not at the Multigenerational Center where they would have to compete for time and space with children.

#### Public Comments:

Lois Krashin, representing the Performing Arts Club, presented reasons why she believes the existing ballroom is not suited for theatrical activities.

Kaye Dwyer, a recent SCA Anthem resident, said she agreed with RAC including future maintenance costs as one of the decision criteria.

Rod Lyons, an active swimmer, asked if there will be a new pool that would have a greater maximum depth than our present indoor pool. Dick Sovde said in response that an outdoor pool is part of the negotiations between Del Webb and resident representative Favil West.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Lyndall Ruiz and David Berman