

November 6, 2017 Resident Association Council Minutes

Regular Meeting, November 6, 2017

Call to order: Chair Helen Lyons called the meeting to order at 9:45 and welcomed guests and introduced new councilor Julia Layden.

Those attending: Chair Helen Lyons, Vice-Chair Eric Shawn, Past Chair Norma Martin, Secretary Nancy Barrett-Dennehy, Archivist Jean Coberly, Councilors Ed Egging, John Gillock, Dori Jones, Julia Layden, Bill Rector, Suzanne Townsen, Foundation President Judie Hansen, Madrona Grove Liaison Lois Weathers and representative Norrene Thompson, CEO Vassar Byrd.

Absent: Evelyn Cole, Nancy Rorden, Rose Smith.

Guests: Mary and Joe Eusterman, Andrea Drury.

Minutes from previous meeting: approved as written.

What we value and are grateful for: Staff at Madrona Grove; everyone who is here this morning; maintenance folks who haul stuff for Treasure House.

Reports:

Rose Villa Management: CEO Vassar Byrd reported they have been working on next year's budget and this will be shared at our November 14th Resident Forum. She also warned that if the current Federal budget proposal passes it will decimate our ability to fund the new Madrona Grove. The removal of tax exempt bonds and deduction for medical expenses will have a very negative impact on senior living communities. Additional information is being sent out to residents to help in understanding the impact this will have for us.

Madrona Grove Liaison: There are three major Madrona Grove events to report this month. First, the recent Madrona Grove Open House, arranged by Melodie Reid and staff, was a rousing success. If you missed it, following many requests, there are plans to have another one in the future. Second, after a long hiatus, a resident of Madrona Grove, Norrene Thompson, is now serving as its representative on the Rose Villa Resident Council. (Find out about this amazing lady at the end.) Third, Melodie Reid, Activities and Volunteer Coordinator for Madrona Grove is providing training for

all Friendship Corps members on Nov. 14th at 3 PM in the Cascade Room. For any questions, call Lois Weathers at x3240.

Norrene (a native Oregonian known to many as “The Orchid Lady”) moved into RV in 2011. A special window was built for her 50-some orchids, which came with her when she moved in. Many residents enjoyed admiring them as they walked by. She was in the group of “Voyagers” who transitioned into new apartments for Phase 1 of re-development and later became a resident of MG in 2015. With a Master’s in Home Economics, her career included running the entire lunch program for the then three schools in Pendleton. Later she taught at Clackamas HS for many years. When she arrived at Clackamas High, only girls attended her Home Ec classes but with persistence she was able to institute a class for boys only. Norrene spoke lovingly of family. Her husband, Gray (an extension agent for Clackamas, Multnomah, and Marion Counties), “always treated me like we had just met.” At one time they belonged to three dance clubs and performed exhibition ballroom dancing. She has two children who both live in the area. When asked what she liked about MG, she named the wonderful care and the kindness of everyone on staff, and the friendships made with fellow residents. The Rose Villa Resident Council very happily welcomes Norrene aboard!

Foundation: The Foundation fall campaign has raised approximately \$10,000 so far, and the race track display shows a lot of movement among the horses. The campaign runs thru December 31. The goal is \$32,200.

The Legacy Society started this month and includes residents and friends of Rose Villa who have listed the Rose Villa Foundation in their wills and/or have invested in a Rose Villa Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity.

Movies featuring horses are being shown and the monthly donors (Pacesetters) had a social on November 2 with a trivia contest testing their knowledge of race horses. The Education and Enrichment task force has a wide variety of seminars lined up for 2018 related to finances and wellness. Judie Hansen, President

Archivist: Jean Coberly shared this tidbit from our archives about the October, 1962 Columbus Day storm: “We were without heat or power for some 19 hours - but Mrs. Rose, our cook and her helpers, set up a big grate in the fireplace and made hot coffee and cereal. Infirmary patients who could, were seated in a semi-circle around the fire and residents brought blankets

to keep bed patients warm. Mrs. Stewart, Supt., says, 'thank you, thank you,' for your generous help. Lots of branches blew off the trees in our picnic area and the wind gave our garden a good going over but by Tuesday everything was shipshape, thanks to Messrs. English, Jewell, Lem Putnam, Brauer, Gaffy, Mortimer, Howard, Grenfell, Wise and others."

Treasurer: In Nancy Rorden's absence, the written report was handed out. The contributions to the Employee Christmas Fund are coming in, but we were reminded that there is only one more month left before the deadline for this year's contributions.

Continuing Business:

Procedures Manual: Eric Shawn presented the recommended changes to Chapter 5 on the topic of how groups achieve standing before the Council. Resident groups select their own leaders but if they want to be recognized by the Council they send a written request and representative to executive committee and then to full Council. The benefits of having a group recognized are that it facilitates a pathway to administration, communication and decision making and gives public recognition. It also provides a record of what groups have existed and what they have done.

(Detailed description of changes is available in the Reports and Updates and in Council Minutes & Reports attachment on TouchTown).

Following review and discussion, consensus was unanimous in favor of accepting the proposed changes.

Soliciting Funds from Residents: Suzanne Townsen presented a draft of wording to explain this directive. There was a great deal of discussion and ideas for possible changes. It will be rewritten and brought back to the next meeting for approval.

Ad Hoc Committee Groups and Activities update: This was moved to the December agenda.

New Business:

Annual Agenda: Eric explained that developing an annual agenda would help to keep recurring items from slipping through cracks. It could track agenda items so residents can see what is coming up in future meetings. This also brought up the need for more communication, i.e., how do we

make sure we reach every resident? After discussion there was consensus to further develop this mechanism.

Do we need to make Councilors/Officers more recognizable on campus?

Discussion of pros and cons surfaced some ideas: add ID to name tags (small pin or something); post pictures on Bulletin Boards; Vassar suggested we could be introduced at this month's Resident Forum. This will return as decision item at the December meeting.

Appoint an Ad Hoc Committee: Helen suggested we investigate an in-house TV channel for Rose Villa as a means for providing information for residents who are hearing and/or vision impaired and residents who don't use computers. Suzanne has agreed to chair a committee to look into this. Lois Weathers volunteered to join her.

Consider a representative structure of Council government based on neighborhoods: Add to the December Council Agenda as a discussion item. This will be included in the background information for next meeting.

Announcements and Updates:

Julia Layden appointment to the Councilor #8 position.

Suzanne Townsen appointment to the Executive Committee.

Potluck Group needs a person to head the team. If interested, see Norma Martin.

Out to Lunch Bunch needs a team leader to work with Jenna Miller to select restaurants for monthly outings.

Annual Employee Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec. 6th in the PAC.

Suggestion Box: Can the Friday fish special be available in Harvest Grill and for take out? Can we add another round table in the garage room, maybe to replace a four person table? Vassar sent a response to this latter question before the final version of the Minutes was complete:

"I asked Norine and Sadie to take a look at Harvest Grill to provide an answer to this question at the meeting on Monday: Another ROUND table in

the Garage room in Harvest Grill would be lovely – could we have it replace one of the square tables for 4? They went in to the space this morning, and because of the angle of the patio, they don't think a large round table would fit well in that space. Were we to make the table fit, we would have a net loss of approximately 4 seats. It would not allow enough space for wheelchair or walker accessibility to add a round table, and keep our current seating. We have also already made adjustments to the patio (moving out the big comfy chairs) to facilitate more communal style long tables.”

Open Forum: Request/suggestion to update audio equipment in the Training Room to help make this meeting more efficient and easier to hear.

Next Resident Forum: November 14th at 2:00 PM. Instead of Council speaker the entire council will be introduced.

Next Council Meeting: December 4, 2017

Next Executive Committee meeting: November 11, 2017

Meeting adjourned 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Barrett-Dennehy, Secretary