

Daily News-Sun

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RCSC changes club guest fee policy

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JEFF DEMPSEY DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Recreation Centers of Sun City's Board of Directors conducted its last meeting of the year Thursday and approved a board policy change that has been a hot topic of discussion for several months along with a multi-million dollar overhaul of one of the community's golf courses. "I'm very disappointed that the board has not listened to all the performing arts groups in the community," said Virginia Summers. "I think it's a tragedy, and I'm disappointed all of the people who have raised opposition have not been heard."

The change — which removes the exception to the \$2 club guest fee for the band and other groups in addition to making the policy shorter — was met with heated opposition when it was introduced in the Clubs and Organizations Committee and again when it reached the board of directors.

The board repeatedly stated its intention to get the policy in its revised form passed before the end of the year and to make whatever changes were deemed necessary on an as-needed basis afterward. There were still those Thursday, however, who wanted the board to table the motion again, as it did at November's meeting.

"I don't think (guests) should pay," said Sun City resident Douglas Welch. "This should be tabled for further discussion. The people don't want it."

Not all of those who spoke were against the proposed policy change. Sun City resident Ron Butler said he supported the board's efforts.

"It is clear some groups are not in compliance (with the policy)," he said. "Why should a select few be exempt from this requirement?"

Butler said he does not believe the \$2 guest fee will prove fatal for any of the affected clubs but if it did, he said, Sun City would survive.

"Clubs and activities have ceased to exist before," he said. "And our community has still flourished and expanded."

Butler said he views those who have been speaking out against the policy change as a very vocal minority.

"You are not the majority in this community," he said. "And I think the majority of non-club members would agree all clubs need to pay their fair share."

In his last meeting as a member of the board, President Vance Coleman said he believes the board is making the right decision with the policy change.

"It isn't about being unfair to anyone," he said. "It's about being fair to everyone. (The fee) is in the bylaws. It's not new. We're just enforcing what is in the bylaws."

The board also approved a motion to move forward with the overhaul of North Golf Course, a project estimated to cost just under \$6 million. The vote was 7-2, with Bill Pearson and Linda Lindquist voting against. Pearson was also the lone dissenter in the vote approving the policy affecting the clubs.

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The guest fees were instituted by the board, not the members. The members never voted this extra tax on themselves.

It is never the guest who pays; it is the members. Only the members can buy the "Host" punch cards. The members have already paid for the RCSC facilities through mandatory annual membership fees.

The articles of incorporation require equal assessments. Guest fees punish the members who wish to share their good fortune with their family and friends to entice them to buy here, which is free marketing of the best kind.

When the board's actions cause clubs to close, they are going against The Formula for Successful Sun Cities: 1) create a sense of community, create a social network for the residents.

The RCSC does not need the guest fees to survive, but it does need the clubs.

Learn more: <http://www.annereport.com>. See what other RCSC actions are going against The Formula, state statutes, the articles of incorporation, and the facilities agreement; and why the members are now collecting legal funds to take the RCSC to court to compel compliance. (Donations are not tax deductible.)