

## Sun Cities Independent

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# Music groups band against policy

By Rusty Bradshaw

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PHOTO: Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

**The Sun City Concert and Pops bands draw hundreds to the Sundial Recreation Center for their multiple annual concerts. Band members and other Sun City musical groups are banding together to fight a Recreation Centers of Sun City policy change that could jeopardize the future of the performances of all musical clubs.**

Sun City's musical groups are joining forces to battle the Recreation Centers of Sun City's changes to its clubs' policy requiring non-cardholders pay a guest fee.

Led by the Concert Band Club, the largest of the groups, representatives from the seven clubs most affected by the revisions, approved by the RCSC board Dec. 20, met last week to discuss options. None of the clubs want to decharter, an alternative allowed by the new Board Policy 12.

"There are a number of reasons we don't want to decharter," said Ed White, concert band president. "One of those is protection of our assets."

The new board policy stipulates that assets of any club that decharts can be sold or become the property of RCSC.

He added clubs are banding together to provide a united front.

"We are fighting for something that is paramount to the ambiance of Sun City," Mr. White said.

Charles Musgrave, concert band associate director, consulted an attorney about bringing a lawsuit against RCSC. While the attorney was confident the music clubs would prevail, he suggested appeals would become costly. Instead, he suggested club leaders "think outside the box," according to Mr. Musgrave.

To that end, concert band club leaders are considering naming their nonresident performers as independent contractors, which are allowed under the revised policy. The idea is to be taken back to each individual music club for discussion and a final decision will be made in another group meeting Wednesday, Jan. 30. *[AR NOTE: The meeting was moved to Jan. 22.*

Mr. Musgrave said the band could be offered to other communities, but its members preferred to stay in Sun City. He also said groups should seek legislative remedy and, if all else fails initiate a recall of board members.

“It gives me an empty feeling when we can’t have volunteers come in and perform without having to pay more than they already are in gasoline for travel and their time,” Mr. Musgrave said.

In addition to the guest fee, the revised Board Policy 12 calls for groups to pay facility rental and setup for events open to the non-RCSC cardholders. That requirement can be eliminated if the club makes a \$17,500 annual contribution to RCSC.

“None of these clubs have flush budgets,” Mr. Musgrave said.

Sun City resident Anne Randall Stewart, who attended last week’s meeting, urged the music groups to proceed with a lawsuit.

“You have to sue, because otherwise they are not going to listen,” she said.

Mrs. Stewart pointed to the success of the Viewpoint Lake homeowners who filed a lawsuit against RCSC and prevailed, both in the original judgment and on appeal.

Representing the Sun City Formula Registry, Mrs. Stewart initiated legal action by having Nancy Mangone, the attorney who represented the lake homeowners, send RCSC officials a letter alleging several violations of its own articles of incorporation, including changing membership meeting quorums without a vote of members, spending more than \$750,000 on projects without a vote, charging unequal assessments and conducting closed door work sessions.

“They ignored her letter,” Mrs. Stewart said.

She is conducting fundraising through January and February for monies to pay for legal fees in what she plans to be a continuing legal action.

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Contributions made to this effort are not tax deductible, according to Mrs. Stewart.