

OPEN MEETING

REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 14, 2019 – 1:30 p.m.
Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Annette Sabol Soule-Chair, Andre Torng, Juanita Skillman, Joe Fitzekam, Bunny Carpenter, Ryna Rothberg, Annie McCary, Cush Bhada, Leon St. Hilaire, Shaun Tumpane

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick Rader, Beth Perak and Pat English were present in audience

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Gruner, Jennifer Murphy, Jackie Kupfert

Call to Order

Chair Soule called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Acknowledgement of Media

There was no press present.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made, and by consensus, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Committee Report for September 12, 2019

A motion was made, and by consensus, the report was approved.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Soule stated new GRF directors were voted in yesterday including Bunny Carpenter as the new president and Joe Fitzekam as second vice president. Yvonne Horton and Egon Garthoffner are also new to the GRF board as directors. Chair Soule recited a poignant poem from "Fulfilling Retirement Dreams" as this may be her last CAC meeting with new GRF directors. Chair Soule recognized a standing issue from the September CAC meeting regarding budget concerns from residents and hopes they will be addressed at future meetings. Chair Soule stated the Laguna Hills Mall redevelopment project mentioned in the Globe features an outdoor amphitheater which will have 6,309 parking spaces; this is wonderful news that a national mall developer worth millions of dollars will undertake this expensive project at no cost to members' assessments which will host concerts that all Laguna Woods Village members may attend by taking the bus. Chair Soule stated the following for Recreation events: a Health and Wellness Expo in March with over 1000 attendees; the Village Bazaar in April sold out at Clubhouse 5; Village Games wrapped up a week ago with 22 unique events, over 380 participants and over 800 medals distributed in total; Easter at Equestrian was well attended; the Kentucky Derby hosted a hat contest with over 100 attendees;

Cinco de Mayo sold out with approximately 200 attendees; the Monday night movie, Bohemian Rhapsody, was a sellout therefore Recreation booked another showing. Chair Soule stated the Landscape Department and Public Relations Department, in conjunction with Recreation, hosted Arbor Day at Clubhouse 1 with the planting of a Chinese pistache tree. Chair Soule stated the following facility enhancements: the current ActiveNet program has been updated to allow residents to view room availability online; etiquette signs are being posted at the facilities; the comprehensive staff training was hosted on August 14 as approved; the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) installment banquet was held at Clubhouse 2 on April 4. Director Perak was in attendance at this banquet. Chair Soule stated the following operational improvements: include the implementation of a staff responsibility checklist (cleaning, walk-throughs, maintenance reporting, etc.); Emeritus survey results; Clubhouse 4 renaming survey complete; Mr. Gruner would like to invite CAC members to attend the 2020 CPRS Mini-Conference in Laguna Hills. Chair Soule stated GRF passed a motion to approve a resolution to authorize 27-Hole Golf Course Summer Closures in extreme temperature and humidity conditions. The stipulation will close 9 holes for one week when these conditions are present, permitting play on 18 holes.

Report of the Recreation and Special Events Director

Mr. Gruner reported the Huey Lewis and the News Tribute Band outdoor concert and car show was very successful. Rain tried to tamper the event, but overall it was well attended with those dancing and having fun. The Harvest Hoedown was well received; the Village Bazaar sold out at Clubhouse 5; the Arts and Crafts Bonanza had over 2400 attendees which is record breaking; Veterans Day had over 140 attendees and included speakers Mayor Cynthia Conners, the American Legion Commander Joe Rainey and Colonel Clark from the 1st Marine Regiment of Camp Pendleton. Staff has done a great job organizing events as we have so many throughout the year.

Mr. Gruner stated the following facility enhancements: new banquet chairs have been received; Performing Arts Center renovation anticipated to begin in May, 2020; Clubhouse 4 jewelry room flooring has been repaired; new ventilation system in the woodshop has been installed and a new air filtration system in ceramics will be installed. Mr. Gruner stated the Garden Center 1 new community gathering area is complete with shade covers and benches to be added. Revised operating rules have been posted at the Garden Centers and a new Grandparents Garden Club has been started at a local high school. These students are volunteering at the Garden Centers to help those unable to fully maintain their plot. The Tennis Center renovation is on schedule with hopes of starting in January with construction.

Mr. Gruner stated the following operational improvements: staffing changes have been implemented at the Performing Arts Center restructuring operating procedures; staff will host a re-grand opening when construction is complete at the Performing Arts Center; staff is working closely with the Bridge Club to improve operations and to ensure fairness.

Ms. Murphy reported on the following upcoming events: Blue Thursday music event tonight at Restaurant 19, 5 to 7 p.m.; free Monday night movie is November 18 at the Performing Arts Center and will feature On the Basis of Sex; the Thanksgiving buffet is sold out at Clubhouse 2 and 5; the Holiday Festival at Clubhouse 2 will be on December 7 at 6 p.m. with music from Sugar Plums, a Spark of Love toy drive, hot cocoa, cookies; Timeless Melodies: 1930, the year in music, will be at Clubhouse 2 on December 3; the Annual Volunteer Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. on December 6 at Clubhouse 5; the Christmas Buffet will be held on December 25 at Clubhouse 5 at 1 p.m.; New

Year's Eve may be celebrated at the Performing Arts Center with Ricky Nelson Remembered tribute at 6 and 8:30 p.m. and at the Clubhouse 5 Rockin' New Year's Eve dance at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Murphy reported the return of the themed dinners beginning in February with a Parisian menu. The Soup and Salad Buffet will be replaced with a Mexican Buffet beginning in January. Monday Night Football at the Village Greens will continue until December 23 and will host free chips and salsa and happy hour food specials. The Holiday Light Tour bus excursion will be held December 17, 18 and 19 at 7 p.m. each night. The lottery for this excursion will be on November 25. January 22 will be the Disneyland excursion with a \$10 bus fee. This new fee will be implemented for each excursion beginning in January, 2020. The free Hatha Yoga class with Kristine deYoung will be at Clubhouse 7 on Fridays from 1 to 2:15 p.m.

Director Bhada inquired about retaining the old banquet chairs, Bonanza advertising in OC Register and stated the gate ambassador was not aware of the event. Mr. Gruner stated the old banquet chairs will be sent to the warehouse for auction and the Video Club will receive 75 chairs as requested. Advertising in the OC Register is quite expensive, so electronic media was utilized for the Bonanza this year. This generated over 600 users of the shuttle from remote parking and allowed the gate ambassador to restrict non-residents entering Laguna Woods Village. Director Bhada inquired about the auction at the warehouse and may a club, facility, such as the Library, or an outside agency purchase the chairs. Mr. Gruner reported the Purchasing Department and warehouse staff will work together for the auction and if the chairs are not purchased by residents, they may be purchased by an outside agency. The Library received chairs that were being stored in the Community Center.

Ms. Olsen reported the following Equestrian Center updates: the center is currently understaffed and continue to recruit for valuable staff with minimal disruption to boarders; all water dishes are being inspected and replaced when necessary; the tamper machine has been repaired and work has resumed on stalls to level them as needed; improvements in the arena and hot walker grading schedules and processes; improvement in scheduling of regular trail maintenance; staff is currently preparing for the rainy season. Ridership is slowing down with consistent local riders instead of those visiting from out of town. The average number of riders per day is 42 with 26 young riders on the weekends. Only five horses are considered appropriate for this young age. Five riders are the average for trail riders. There has been positive feedback with regards to the new curriculum. The Harvest Hoedown had 300 attendees featuring the Silverados, BBQ food truck and kid activities. Upcoming events include Easter at Equestrian, Play Day and the Harvest Hoedown. Additional revenue will include an educational program, equestrian fitness and safety and etiquette classes once fully staffed. A marketing strategy of listing local equestrian centers was created for both non-residents and residents as we are private. A general equestrian informational list was also created for resident reference. Ms. Olsen was interviewed on Village TV and includes Globe write-ups to inform all residents of what the Equestrian Center offers. To keep communication open, boarder meetings are scheduled 6 times per year.

Chair Soule inquired as to the time of the November 16 Boarder meeting and stated Ms. Olsen does great job on Village TV. Ms. Olsen stated the meeting is at 11 a.m. and the 2020 schedule will be distributed to the boarders at that time.

Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Members spoke on the following topics: Clubhouse 1 Main Lounge blinds; adjustment to the Community Center Fitness Center opening hours to 7 a.m. and closing hours to 5 p.m.; support of the rise of dues if properly spent; indoor heated pool for the community; soup and salad continuation for 2020 and a healthy meal option replacement; the Bonanza shuttle was a wonderful idea; the PAC renovation.

Director Torng inquired as to all Fitness Centers hours were to be adjusted. The resident stated only requesting the adjustment for the Community Center Fitness Center. Chair Soule stated an Emeritus class begins at 8 a.m. and thus encouraged the early group to meet for outdoor exercise.

Director Soule stated Goldfish Swim School is very successful. Director Skillman stated there is a heated pool at LA Fitness locally.

Mr. Gruner stated soup and salad was reviewed as the attendance has continually declined. The resident stated the attendance declined when the dinner location was changed.

Mr. Gruner stated the project will start May 1, not finish in May as Director English understood. Director English stated she would like Mr. Gruner to clarify what is meant by finished. Mr. Gruner stated to renovate, repair and address safety concerns. Chair Soule confirmed construction will start in May. Director Torng inquired as to using Clubhouse 5 for performance events. Mr. Gruner stated if available, events will be relocated.

Mr. Gruner will review the fitness center hours once again and stated staff will research new blind options for Clubhouse 1 with M & C as replacement cost is the main issue. A Fitness Center petition is not necessary at this time. Advisor Tumpane stated the Fitness Center is quite crowded from 8 to 10 a.m. and would like to see staff review an adjustment to the hours of operation. Mr. Gruner will update CAC at the January meeting. Chair Soule stated the plans for the Clubhouse 1 renovation will be available in February, 2020. Right now it's wait and see whether consideration given within those Clubhouse 1 plans for an indoor pool.

CONSENT

A motion was made, and by consensus, the consent calendar was approved.

REPORTS

Off Season Kids Swim Hours Adjustment– Mr. Gruner stated the staff recommendation to adjust the off-season Children's Swim program hours from noon to 2 p.m. to 2 to 4 p.m. at Pool 2 from October 1 to Memorial Day.

Discussion ensued.

Staff was directed to present statistics of Pool 2 attendance regarding this request as Chair Soule indicated this may disrupt lap swimmers and seniors using the pool extensively at the times requests. Staff will bring forth the requested statistics at next CAC meeting in January, 2020.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION

Emeritus Ad Hoc Committee Update – Mr. Gruner stated in July an Ad Hoc committee was formed to review a survey that Emeritus conducted. The analysis showed we are on track with class provisions and the committee decided that meetings were no longer necessary. Recreation is working with OLLI (UCI) to bring educational lectures to Laguna Woods Village in 2020. Chair Soule stated for it to be free and onsite is incredible as OLLI is currently approximately \$200 per person and hosted at the Irvine Train Station.

Policy Review and Discussion (Clubs Conducting Business for Profit) - Ms. Murphy stated at the September CAC meeting staff was directed to research those clubs that were connected to an outside organization. This review was to consider raising fees for those clubs. After review, it was discovered that many clubs would be affected thus no extra fees would be charged per the committee organized for this review. Director McCary inquired as to number of meetings each club may have with some holding more than others. Ms. Murphy stated a new policy was instated to encourage a lower number of club meetings for better room availability. Director Torng stated these club events are a benefit to our residents and for promoting Laguna Woods Village. Director Bhada stated this review was requested as organizations may have been sending monies collected within Laguna Woods Village to the outside agency.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Director Carpenter requested staff to add review of guideline signs posted at all the clubhouses.

Director Torng requested staff to present the CAC charter for review in January. Director Soule indicated that reviewing the Charter is an annual occurrence.

Director McCary inquired as to a club update. Mr. Gruner stated there are 277 approved clubs, three clubs are on the wait list and 28 clubs are not compliant with current roster or forms. Notices are sent out to each club that is not compliant and will be disbanded if not responsive after three attempts. No further staff direction was given at this time.

CONCLUDING BUSINESS

Committee Member Comments

Mr. Gruner stated it has been a pleasure working with CAC and looks forward to another successful year in Recreation.

Ms. Murphy stated it has also been a pleasure working with CAC and with the holidays coming, please take good care of your health.

Director Bhada thanked staff and the committee and wished everyone happy holidays.

Director McCary thanked the committee for being patient with her being new, enjoys working with CAC and wished everyone happy holidays.

Director Fitzekam stated that Laguna Hills Board of Directors viewed the Laguna Hills Mall proposed plans. They seem to be upset as the revenue may not be as much as previous thought.

Director Skillman stated the double-sided sign-in sheets should remain one page instead of two.

Director Torng stated his enjoyment of working on this committee and congratulated Chair Soule for running the meetings efficiently.

Director Rothberg thanked staff and wished everyone a happy New Year.

Advisor St. Hilaire thanked everyone for letting him be on this committee.

Advisor Tumpane thanked staff and congratulated Chair Soule for running the meetings efficiently.

Chair Soule stated she is thrilled for the new GRF board and thanked staff and all committee members for their service. The next CAC meeting is January 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the GRF Community Activities Committee will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Community Center in the Board Room on Thursday, January 9, 2019.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.



Annette Sabol Soule
Annette Sabol Soule, Chair