

RESIDENT COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21, 2020

Chair Arthur Welch called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. using the GoToMeeting digital tool. Council members present were: Hal Bean, Anne Blacksten, Claudia Blake, Nancy DeMarco, Marjorie Fisher, Bob Harris, Fred Hohlweg, Carole Hunt (joined at 10:20), Eleanor Karro, Judith Kaufmann, Toki Shimabukuro, Art Welch and Chris White. John Raubitschek was absent.

Nominating chair Joan Lewis and Executive Director Justin Carwile were also present.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2020, Community Meeting were approved as presented. The minutes of the August 17, 2020, Resident Council Meeting were previously approved by email.

Council Nominations and Elections

Nominating chair Joan Lewis provided an update on nominations for and election to the 2021 Resident Council. She has received four nominations to date; residents nominated are Barbara Molino, Andrea Baumann, Jane Roningen and Jean Reed. She urged each Council member to recruit qualified candidates. Noting that the formal nominating period runs from mid-October to mid-November, Lewis said she will place information about nominations in West Winds, she will report at upcoming Community meetings, and she will place nominating sheets in each elevator lobby, near the dining services menus.

Community Meeting Schedule

Chair Art Welch reported that the next virtual Community Meeting is Monday, October 12, and he is hoping to lock in senior GHI management's participation in a Semi-Annual Meeting report to residents as the program. Nancy DeMarco reported that the Employee Gift Fund is planning a presentation for the Monday, November 2, Community Meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Justin Carwile reported:

- The Semi-Annual Meeting is scheduled to be filmed at GHBC on October 8, in advance of its October 12 presentation.
- The ground floor project is under way, and Carwile hopes it may be completed by mid-November.
- The WIFI assessment has encountered hiccups. The assessment should continue this week; IT director Dave Fowler is checking reported problems with residents' internet connections.
- There was a fire alarm on Friday, when a light fixture on the Crossroads first floor blew out, generating smoke that triggered the alarm. GHBC's electrician is addressing the problem.
- 2021 budgets were approved by the GHI board last Thursday, and all departments are gearing up for the new fiscal year that begins October 1.
- Dining Services is working on plans for outside dining on the Bistro patio. The plan is to offer group dining from a limited menu on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
- The Crossroads hallway and elevator lobby upgrades are resuming, with work on ceilings and new carpeting planned. New furniture has been ordered. Work will be scheduled to minimize disruptions to residents.

- A new fitness instructor has been hired, and will begin training next week.

Carwile invited questions from the Council. Fred Hohlweg noted that on the eighth floor of the Crossroads, there was no sound in apartments of Friday's fire alarm except the all-clear announcement, which was extremely loud. DeMarco noted the same situation on the fifth floor. Judith Kaufmann questioned why all-clear messages are broadcast throughout the property when actual alarms are limited to the building and floors surrounding the triggering event. Carwile will look into the issue.

Bob Harris urged management to publish regularly updated covid-19 guidelines, to minimize the current confusion about what is and isn't permitted. Kaufmann agreed, saying the current messaging is confusing; it needs to be clear, concise and consistent. Carwile will take the recommendation to the Infection Prevention team. Carwile also noted that the team is discussing possible family visits to residents' apartments, and how to allow holiday visits.

Anne Blacksten reported on her family's frustrating experiences obtaining the covid tests that GH requires before allowing family visits. In Maryland, the tests are free, but in Virginia, her family could only find tests that cost \$45 per person per test. Given that regular visits require repeated tests, the cost is considerable. Blacksten also added that she was not sure why children under 12 with tests were not allowed. Hohlweg expressed his view that the tests are worthless because of the generally long delays in receiving results.

Carole Hunt noted that she joined the meeting 20 minutes late because she had no internet connection. Carwile said he would have IT check both Hunt's and Claudia Blake's WIFI.

Marjorie Fisher asked about access to the paper-shredding truck. Carwile said the twice-a-year service previously organized by the marketing department has been discontinued, but residents needing to shred documents can contact him directly for assistance.

Other Business

Bob Harris reported that the Spiritual Life Committee showed "After Selma" about voter suppression, and will have a discussion with the filmmaker on Zoom on Wednesday, September 23, at 1 p.m.

There being no further business, Art Welch adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by Nancy DeMarco