

“Sun City residents encouraged to protest”

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Recreation Centers of Sun City cardholders should attend the RCSC board meeting 9 a.m. Thursday, August 27, at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave., to protest assessment increases in these hard times.

Board Vice President Gene Westmeier, who said at an April 10, 2008 long range planning committee meeting he wants to ultimately raise to \$5,000 the preservation and improvement fee paid at the change of deed recordation, is starting the ball rolling by raising the fee from \$2,500 to \$3,000. It will be unanimously approved by the board at this meeting unless the members attend to vehemently protest. Silence is interpreted as approval not apathy.

Also at the meeting, protest the board's approval of loaning money from the Sundial insurance proceeds to the PIF to pay for the Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Phase II project.

Mr. Westmeier referred to Fairway during the Aug. 17 directors/members exchange as a “pregnant woman” we are stuck with. Without a vote of the members, that \$20-million “baby” is illegitimate. Norm Dickson and his followers are its “birth fathers,” leaving the members to pay the child support.

Article X provided for a member vote for anything over \$750,000 and this is the reason. The members became indebted when the RCSC board of directors signed contracts with Weitz Construction and voted to proceed.

The Sundial roof collapsed from neglect in 2006 and the building had to be restored using money from member assessments until the insurance paid off. This meant other vital budgeted repairs were not done as scheduled. Now, those neglected repairs should be accomplished by using the millions recovered from the insurance policy. If those repairs are not done, what else can we expect to collapse on us?

If indeed the Fairway project is “pay as you go” as it was represented to be, then the PIF should be collected at its present rate and the project should wait until those funds come in.

Another issue is the renovation of Lakes West Golf Course, 10433 W. Talisman Road. It is supposed to be a continuation of the Lakes East Golf Course renovation in preparation for the 50th Anniversary. That can't be the real reason.

Lakes East's desert landscaping has already been overtaken by grass and weeds that can't be mowed or the stones would damage the lawnmowers! Also, Lakes West Golf Course could not possibly be “the diamond of Sun City's golf courses” since it is marred by a concrete gutter eyesore that Del Webb would not have permitted in any of his planned communities.

Businesses are closing all around us. All this spending when we don't have the money can only be for the purpose of generating income for interested parties involved with these projects. It's not for the good of Sun City where the people live on Social Security and pensions.

Be advised that the rush to finish Fairway is motivated by the long range planning committee's plans to build a theater as soon as it's finished.

Help put the brakes on this outrageous spending by protesting at the meeting whether it does any good or not. It will make you feel better than doing absolutely nothing.