

# Sun City Independent

October 24, 2012

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## RCSC: Fewer meetings = more people

Residents concerned bylaw changes reduce member control

**By Rusty Bradshaw**

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The Sun City Recreation Center Board of Directors will consider a bylaw change eliminating some membership meetings and proxy votes.

The board will also consider a proposed long range plan for the corporation's preservation and improvement fund, designated for capital improvements projects.

The bylaw change, if approved as proposed, would eliminate three quarterly membership meetings and retain the January meeting as the required annual meeting. In addition, the change would eliminate members' ability to vote at membership meetings without being in attendance through proxies.

**The proposals did not sit well with some residents. Michael Brock believes the board is taking away opportunities for cardholders to be part of the governing process. Anne Randall Stewart agrees.**

**"They are trying to deny us the opportunity to have a voice," she said.**

**Mrs. Stewart urges cardholders to attend the board meeting and protest the changes.**

However, RCSC officials believe the changes will streamline the process and allow for more

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## Board

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participation.

"We are trying to make things more user-friendly," board member Bill Pearson said of eliminating three quarterly meetings. "First and foremost, the goal is to get a lot of people in that auditorium (for the annual meeting)."

Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, said doing away with the proxy votes is an attempt to bring RCSC into compliance with Arizona Revised Statutes Title 33. She acknowledged RCSC does not operate under Title 33, rather it is governed by Title 10.

"While RCSC is not required to comply with Title 33 by law, there are several things that RCSC does voluntarily that are in compliance with Title 33, as does Sun City West," she stated in an Oct. 15 e-mail. "As you know, we are frequently asked to comply with Title 33."

Ms. Ek also told residents at the Oct. 15 member/director exchange meeting that in the six years she had been with RCSC, not one proxy was filed.

Under the existing bylaws, members had to file proxies at least seven days prior to a membership meeting. All proxies were valid for a maximum of three months from the date of execution.

With only one membership meeting, resident Karen Schuerman questioned how RCSC officials would handle a motion put forward by a member at a membership meeting that was tabled by the board.

"Would we have to wait an entire year to the next membership meeting before action was taken?" she asked.

Board member Cord Angier said RCSC could call a special meeting to deal with the motion. Mr. Pearson said if a motion was made from the floor the board would have to act upon it.

"This is a huge change, but it is all founded on getting people in the room," Mr. Pearson said.

The board will also consider a \$28.3 million PIF budget, recommended by the long range planning committee, including a variety of capital expenditures through 2020. The budget

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includes \$1.6 million for projects expected to be completed in 2012 — Sun Bowl property irrigation, Bell woodworking and metal expansion and the Beardsley well replacement.

The 2013 proposed projects include a new well at Sunland and renovations at Marinette Recreation Center and North Golf Course.

**Mrs. Stewart believes approving the long range plan circumvents Article X of RCSC's Articles of Incorporation, which limits to \$750,000 any liability without a three-quarters majority vote of members at a membership meeting.**

**"In a bad economy with the uncertainty of living on pensions for the rest of our lives, giving up membership control of the RCSC purse strings is ill-advised," she stated in a column posted on the Sun City Formula Registry website, [www.annereport.com](http://www.annereport.com).**

However, the Article X limit is for debt for projects, according to Ms. Ek.

"As has been the history since its inception, RCSC pays for all capital projects in cash," she stated in an Oct. 17 e-mail. "Therefore, there would be no indebtedness or liability created for RCSC with any of the projects listed on the long range plan as the preservation and improvement fund will have sufficient cash to fund all of these projects."

Should something change and funds are not available, projects would be postponed or cancelled, she added.

Some residents at the Oct. 15 exchange meeting lobbied to alter the plan to include a performing arts center in Sun City. The long range plan proposal calls for expanding the Mountain View Recreation Center auditorium backstage and giving the center a facelift in 2019, at a projected cost of \$1 million.

However, Steven Puck of the Sun City Players believes that proposal is inadequate.

"Mountain View is really just a gymnasium with a stage," he said. "What we would like to see is an economical multi-use building."

He added there are 12 other clubs that can use a performing arts center.

Resident Roy Quid believes creating a performing arts center can be accomplished with minimal RCSC expense.

"We've talked to some big name performers who are willing to donate funds," he said. "The Wickenburg performing arts center started out just like that with grass roots support."

Former RCSC board member Don Schordje supports efforts to create a performing arts center in the community.

"Mountain View was adequate for the time it was built," he said. "But now that time has passed."

He was disappointed a Mountain View renovation was pushed back seven years.

"I would like to see more money allocated for it, and I would like to see it moved up," he said.

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