

# SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

June 24, 2009

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## Group calls for Ullman return

Ousted board member called 'independent thinker'

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Independent Newspapers

Sun City Formula Registry officials are mobilizing in an attempt to have Ann Ullman reinstated to the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors.

RCSC board members removed Ms. Ullman from the board in May, citing she was incapable of conducting her duties. They cited two items in the board's code of conduct for rec center cardholders Ms. Ullman violated in her official capacity as a board member — refrain from loud, profane or abusive behavior, and refrain from verbal or physical harassment. Ms. Ullman was removed from her position by board vote.

However, Sun City resident Anne Randall Stewart, Sun City Formula Registry representative, claims Ms. Ullman was actually removed because she did not always agree with other board members and was willing to openly voice her opinions.

"Once you get on the board you have to play their game," Ms. Stewart said. "They have secret meetings and they keep things secret."

Ms. Ullman said she is willing to return to the board if reinstated.

"I believe people voted me in and I feel like I am letting them down," she said.

Some Sun City residents want to know the specific reasons Ms. Ullman was removed. Several asked the board directly during the June 15 directors/members exchange meeting.

"Those reasons should be disclosed by the board," said resident Noel Kasper.

However, Gene Westemeier, board vice

### Ullman

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president, said board members did not want to discuss the matter.

"We want to leave it up to Ann," he said. Don Schordje, former RCSC board member, asked if Ms. Ullman had or would receive a hearing. Mr. Westemeier said she was invited to a hearing but did not show up.

However, toward the end of the meeting, Mr. Westemeier said the board removed Ms. Ullman under article IX of the corporate by laws and a hearing is not required. Ms. Ullman claims she was never invited to a hearing to offer a defense to board charges she was incapable of performing her duties.

During the June 15 exchange meeting, Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, explained the hearing process was an appeal for card holders who are targeted to have their rec card privileges suspended.

Mr. Westemeier was asked via e-mail about the hearing Ms. Ullman was allegedly invited to and whether the board had or planned to suspend her rec card privileges. However, he did not respond by press time. "If there were incident reports filed, they should be addressed," Mr. Schordje said.

Despite having been voted off by other board members, Ms. Ullman believes it would not be difficult for her to work with them if reinstated to the board.

"They are coworkers," she said. "I would have no trouble serving on the board."

Remaining RCSC board members were mum on any attempt to have Ms. Ullman reinstated and shared no plans to fill the vacancy. Each board member was asked a

series of questions about the issue in multiple e-mails, but none responded by press time.

Ms. Stewart's effort has support from residents and the board has support for its action to remove Ms. Ullman.

Residents Jim and Christine Easling do not believe Ms. Ullman was removed for good cause and want to see her reinstated. They believe board members are elected to represent the community, not the desires of the board.

Sun City resident Bob Fritz agrees.

"She was removed because she wouldn't blindly go along with the board to 'show a united front,'" he said. "She is an independent thinker and as such the board has no use for her. They want all board members to toe the party line. The board does what it wants not what the people who elected them want."

However, some residents believe Ms. Ullman's behavior justified her removal.

"Seems to be she was cussing out people and we don't need that sort of behavior," said resident Stuart Manville.

He believes reinstating her to the board would be rewarding abusive behavior.

Residents Roy and Joyce Spaulding agree, saying her use of what they call foul language is not a good reflection of the Sun City community.

Other residents are concerned because there is a lack of information regarding the action. Sun City resident Phil Walker said it is hard for people to make a firm determination.

"We have no way of knowing, because all reasons have been kept secret by the RCSC Board and by Ms Ullman," he said.

Sun City resident Ken Gegg believes the RCSC board is a closed operation.

"It seems if you are not in tune with the board of directors you are considered to be a trouble maker," he said.

Ms. Stewart is a good example, he added.

"She is a very informed advocate here and has been treated like a terrorist," he said.

Some residents believe the board should not be able to remove a member, rather it should come from the cardholder voters. A recall option is open to residents. Ms. Stewart attempted a recall of Norm Dickson, but she claims her recall petitions were ignored by the RCSC board.

Sun City resident Will Ross agrees Sun City voters should have the option to remove board members.

"If she was elected by the (resident) members they should have a say as to her

impeachment," he said.

Mr. Ross believes the board is leaving the door open for a lawsuit.

Resident Marv Worthen believes the board action was not taken lightly and boards governing large corporations such as RCSC should have the ability to policing their members.

"She (Ms. Ullman) is able to run for office at the next election, and should do so if she feels violated," he said.

If handled in the proper way, Mr. Worthen believes there is no reason to overturn the board's decision to remove Ms. Ullman.

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