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Front page story

Petitions limiting RCSC board's power fail to gather steam

Registry pledges vigilance regardless of outcome

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Anne Randall Stewart and the Sun City Formula Registry have been circulating two petitions for two months now, both aimed at limiting the power of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors. One would keep the board from removing one of its directors without a vote of the people, and the other would prevent any changes to bylaws or articles of incorporation without a vote of the people.

In order to get those changes on a ballot, they need about 3,600 signatures. With less than a month to go to reach that goal, Stewart, spokeswoman for the Registry, said they are far short.

"We are approaching 1,000 signatures," she said. "Two months into this and we are still finding people who have not heard of the petitions."

Stewart promised that if they fail to gather enough signatures, the Sun City Formula Registry will not go away.

"We are going to continue to talk about these issues," she said. "It is not going to end if we don't reach the goal. What it will do is empower us to organize better."

Gene Westemeier, RCSC board president, maintains the best way for residents to bring about change is by attending Rec Centers meetings and, if they choose, running for the board.

"With 100 signatures on a petition, any RCSC member in good standing who qualifies can run for the board of directors," he wrote earlier this year in a letter to the Daily News-Sun. "Anyone can be a Monday morning

quarterback, it is easy to criticize and complain. It is much more difficult to offer solutions and become responsible for their outcome. If you are unsatisfied with the board's performance, I urge you to run for the board."

The Registry has decided to take another approach and plans to use a petition to accomplish the goal.

Registry member Noel Kasper requested a petition to recall six of the nine RCSC board members, saying their votes over the past year proved them unfit for the job. The RCSC approved the petition request this week, but Stewart said her organization is declining to move forward with it.

"(The 90-day petition window) was supposed to start Monday, but we rejected it on the basis of form and timing," she said. "We wanted to do it in October, not now, and Vance Coleman was not included in the recall."

Coleman, less than a month into the job at the time, had asked to be included when Kasper put in the request, saying he would stand with his fellow board members. Stewart said she worried if the six board members were successfully recalled, Coleman might then resign.

"We don't want anyone resigning, because then the RCSC can appoint their own replacement," she said.

Petitions are available to sign from noon to 2 p.m. daily at the dog park west of the bank on Del Webb Boulevard and Thunderbird Road.

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