

RCSC board to re-address member quorum

By Rusty Bradshaw

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Recreation Centers of Sun City officials are preparing to re-address the membership meeting quorum issue, and could do so at the next regular board of directors meeting.

Gene Westemeier, RCSC board president, said the board was to meet with the full quorum ad hoc committee last week to discuss its findings and recommendations.

“We hope to have a decision by the end of the month,” Mr. Westemeier told residents who attended the April 5 directors/members exchange meeting.

The RCSC board is scheduled for meet 9 a.m. Thursday, April 29 at Sundial Recreation Center, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

In October RCSC officials proposed raising the quarterly membership meeting quorum from 100 to 10 percent of the eligible RCSC corporate cardholder voters. Jan Ek, RCSC general manager, estimated there were more than 35,000 voters, making the new quorum 3,500. The board tabled the matter, but in December approved a bylaw change striking the 100 member quorum but not specifying a minimum. With no specified number, the quorum reverts to state law, which is 10 percent of the eligible voters.

In quarterly membership meetings, corporate members can make motions from the floor to be considered by the board, but only if there is a quorum present at the meeting, either in person or by proxy.

Supporters of the change argue a larger quorum eliminates the possibility of a small special interest group from changing corporate bylaws or policy.

“That (100 members) is an inappropriate number to be allowed to change policy and bylaws by motion,” said Denny Nichols, RCSC board president in 2009.

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Jerry Swintek, a former RCSC board president, believes the 10 percent quorum figure is too high, making it nearly impossible to conduct a membership meeting. He also believes the change is unnecessary because other corporate bylaws provide the protection Mr. Nichols advocated was the result of the board’s quorum change.

Article III, Section 5 of the RCSC bylaws spells out that members can make a motion during a quarterly membership meeting, which then will be considered by the board. If members disagree with the board’s decision on the motion, they can then petition the matter for a general election. The petition must contain signatures from 10 percent of the corporation’s eligible voting members.

“This article, not the meeting quorum requirement, is why we have not had a problem in 36 years,” Mr. Swintek said to the board during a Dec. 7 directors/members exchange meeting when the new quorum proposal was revealed.

Sun City resident Anne Randall Stewart believes another bylaw change by the board — reducing the time to gather petition signatures from six months to three — is a further attempt by RCSC leadership to distance members from the decision-making process. She and members of her Sun City Formula Registry are less than a month from

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a deadline on two petitions they are circulating to bring to a membership vote to rescind the quorum and petition signature changes made by the board.

By March 31, the group was nearing 900 signatures. Mrs. Stewart also said the board approved a policy prohibiting gathering petition signatures on RCSC property, further hampering petition efforts.

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