

THE DAILY NEWS-SUN

4/19/10

OPINION

My View

Page A6

Registry fights community apathy

by Anne Randall Stewart

Spokesperson for the Sun City Formula Registry

Publisher of <http://www.annereport.com> (623) 933-6192

Robert Wheeler's 717-word letter asking "What is the Registry's formula?" reveals what we are finding: that many don't know us because they do not come to the RCSC meetings, read the newspapers, answer their phones, use a computer, or read flyers, keeping themselves uninformed.

After two months of petition circulation, there are still people who have not heard about it and don't have a grasp of the issues facing them. Robert Wheeler is a case in point. He has never seen our website <http://www.annereport.com/welcome.html>, which has been in existence since 2000.

He makes statements like "nobody asked me" as though we didn't, but we do every time we write to inform the homeowners about the issues, and every time we pursue a petition drive.

We see the "rose-colored glasses" syndrome where a person idealizes the "unpaid volunteer layman board" working for altruistic motives "doing a great job for us all". That's a useful stance that perpetuates staying uninformed because if it were true then there's nothing they need to do. Apathy is a soothing state of mind. Dangerous, but soothing, like dope.

He makes statements like "they are attempting to change a system that has worked for 50 years", yet the RCSC board is making sweeping changes like removing the members' power to stop them when they do things that are to the disadvantage of the homeowners.

For 50 years the members were in charge of the board. Now, they are not.

The RCSC has morphed from just maintaining the facilities for the benefit of the homeowners into a government controlling every aspect of our lives. They are now reaching into our trusts and threatening to charge our beneficiaries annual assessments, charging an inheritance tax in the form of the PIF, removing voting rights of investors and non-spousal owners, charging singles double with one vote and spouses the same but having two votes, and more.

The RCSC in the past decade removed the spending limit protections of Article X in the articles of incorporation which requires a membership vote for \$750,000 projects. In 2001, the Sundial Project wasn't brought to a vote because the board said it would cost only \$350,000, but it skyrocketed to \$3 million. Due to the board's ignorance the roof collapsed, so, the \$3 million was lost. And it cost another \$5 million to restore. But they got away with it. Then came \$3.5 million on Bell and \$20 million on Fairway. All without a membership vote.

They started the Preservation and Improvement Fee paid by buyers which went from \$300, \$700, \$1600, \$2500, and then \$3000, which started the petition drive. The members appeared with a quorum to oppose the \$3000 and the board changed the quorum so there aren't any more membership meetings to impede them.

The PIF is now being paid by not just new buyers. You pay it every time a change is made to the deed. It is an inheritance tax.

The people coming out to sign our two petitions are the ones who got hit and see the realities facing them. Sun City won't be affordable for them with the changes made by these board members. The board's response? "If you don't like it, move."

SCFR is working to protect Mr. Wheeler and his investment here. We are the ones who are informed. His security as well as our own is jeopardized when a cold-hearted non-profit corporation can assess and spend without limit leaving us broke and looking for another place to live. We are working to save "Our Retirement Dream Come True".

Come to the dog park with your Rec Card and bring a friend, daily noon to 2pm, and join us. Next to the bank on Thunderbird & Del Webb boulevards, Westside LaRonde Centre. Require a membership vote for the board to recall board members or write bylaws.

The RCSC needs to realize the members are not their "deep-pocket slaves."