

## RCSC board split but still raise preservation fee

By Rusty Bradshaw, Independent Newspapers

In what could be a historic precedent, the Recreation Centers of Sun City had a split decision, forcing the board president to break a tie.

In considering whether to increase the preservation and improvement fee by \$500, the **board voted 5-4 to approve the increase**. The **decision went against the sentiment of the large crowd** that attended the April 30 board meeting. **Eighteen people spoke** regarding the motion to increase the fee, and **16 opposed it**.

For some members, the **RCSC Board going against the will of the members was business as usual**.

"I am against any increase," said Mohammad Kahn. "But you will pass this anyway because you are just like the state and federal governments — you don't care about these people."

Virginia Summers agreed.

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**PIF**

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"It's a crime residents cannot vote on this and you've decided to do this when the snowbirds are gone."

The increase did have some support from residents.

"New people coming in are not talking about the PIF being a problem," said Don Bortz, who volunteers at the Sun City Visitors Center. "It (increase) is the right thing to do right now."

The **PIF fee is paid to RCSC each time a property is sold, or changes hands in any other way, such as the death of a parent or spouse**. Opponents argued that current owners would most likely pay the PIF when they sell their properties because **most buyers are requesting sellers pay the closing costs**.

Susan Summers, a resident and real estate agent, said that is not always the case.

"I have never lost a sale because of the PIF; I explain it to them and show them around the community," she said. "Sellers will not pay the PIF unless they want to."

However, she told the board she was not in favor of the increase as proposed.

"It needs to be better explained," she said.

Bill Pearson, a former board member, reminded the sitting board that at its current \$3,000 rate the PIF fee would raise \$30 million in five years, but in that same period the RCSC long-range plan calls only for \$18 million in expenses. He also reminded the board it suspended its long range planning committee.

"At the **end of five years**, you will have **\$12 million left over with no plan what to do with it**," Mr. Pearson said.

In arguing **against the increase, RCSC board members Dave Wieland, Michael Kennedy and Peter Lee** each said they believed the increase unnecessary at this time because all planned projects would be paid for with existing projected revenues. **Ida Eisert also voted against** the increase, but did not explain why. Jim Brasher was the only board member who spoke before the vote. But all he did was read from the corporation documents defining the board's fiduciary responsibilities. **One line reads that the board's fiduciary responsibility is to the corporation. [Anne Report Note: The previous line contradicts RCSC Article III which says it should ... "do anything and everything lawfully necessary in the interest of the Members..."]**

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**[Anne Report Note: emphasis ours.]**

