

Daily News-Sun

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Sundial building ordered closed

by Helen Allen, Staff Writer

SUN CITY – Sundial's pool-crafts building was ordered closed today by the Recreation Centers board.

The closure was effective immediately as a safety precaution.

The action was taken during a special board meeting after directors received an oral report from Patrick Welch, a consulting engineer, on the unsafe condition of the building's roof.

Board members also ordered a complete structural investigation be made of the building, as recommended by Welch.

Henry Schwartz, centers operations manager, reported that the swimming pool section of the building has remained **closed since May 7**, when an investigation of the roof structure was started by Pegler-Welch Inc.

The order for complete closure of the building now extends to the crafts room and indoor shuffleboard area.

The Sundial auditorium building will continue to remain open. Schwartz said immediate arrangements will be made to provide that building with some type of separate air conditioning system.

It remained uncertain after the meeting whether club members will be allowed into the pool-crafts building to remove any of their belongings. The uncertainty was due to a question of possible liability.

Welch reported that a brief investigation of the roof has revealed a **truss failure, caused by moisture and chlorine vapors**.

He also credited Schwartz with preventing a possible roof collapse.

Welch said that **possible collapse was avoided** by Schwartz ordering a section between the building's ceiling and roof to be opened to eliminate the gathering moisture.

The consulting engineer also recommended that a more extensive investigation be conducted to determine if the glu lam beams and lower roof sections were also affected; and that all of the mechanical and cooling equipment be removed immediately from the roof to reduce the stress.

Director William Heckman also urged that a thorough check be made of the balconies in the building to determine their condition—as a safety precaution.

Welch said the **roof problem** seems to have been **caused by air handlers installed fairly recently as a means of cutting energy costs**. He said the air handlers, while cutting energy costs also **returned the moisture into the building instead of drawing it out**.

The engineer added that **only one of the four air handlers on top the building was working**.

Welch stressed that he could not make any real cost estimates on repairs until a full examination was completed. He said the cost could run anywhere from \$350,000 to \$800,000.