

Dining Room Advisory Council-Minutes

Thursday January 9, 2025 1:30pm Roadrunner Lounge
2025 Representatives, and Residents Invited- in Person Meeting

1. Call to Order and Determine Quorum

- A. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30.
- B. The Chair acknowledged Quorum.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2024 DRAC Meeting were approved.

3. Dining Services - Ex-Officio Member Report from Chef

- B. When asked for the nominee for the BOTH employee, Jeronimo Espiritu – Chef reported that the kitchen staff is short 2 dishwashers and 2 cooks.

4. BOTH and FOTH nominations

Jennifer Herrera was voted February FOTH employee of the month.

Ryun *Taylor* was voted February BOTH employee of the month.

3. Dining Services - Ex-Officio Member Reports.

A. Guy Fanelli- Director Dining Services

Reservations were the primary topic of the report.

Brian Greybeal, Guy Fanelli and Nikki Villa met with Jerry Pierce and Don Hatchett and discussed the December test run and how reservations affect service and staff and flow in the dining room.

The current new corporate policy for dining reservations established by the administrative staff of Blue Skies and effective Monday January 13 is as follows.

- Reservations may still be made on Uniguest, on the Portal, by telephoning (210) 568 3238 and leaving a voice mail and telling staff at the check in desk in the dining room in person.
- Reservations are still required for:
 - For dinner every day and must be made by 2 p.m. that day.

- For Sunday brunch and maybe made by 6 p.m. Saturday.
- There will be No Penalty for failure to appear for a reservation for dinner or Sunday brunch. (Penalties only apply to the five Events on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Days, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.)
- Each day (Monday through Saturday), staff at the check-in desk in the Lakeview will begin compiling a list of in-person walk-ins at 5:00 pm. Persons on this list will be seated as soon after 5:30 as an appropriate size table for the number in the group is available.
- On Sunday, staff at the check-in desk in the Lakeview will begin compiling a list of in-person walk-ins at 11:00 am. Persons on this list will be seated as soon after 11:45 as an appropriate size table for the number in the group is available.
- When a table is available, the "maître d'" will text a message to the person who started the walk-in group. The members of the group must arrive to be seated within 15 minutes after the text is sent.
- No one waiting for a table (reserved or walk-in) may wait in the hall outside the door to the Lakeview. All chairs will be removed from that hall by Monday. Every one waiting on LL must wait in the Round Runner unless there is a special event there. If there is a special event, staff will figure out where residents who want to wait for dinner in the Lakeview on LL may wait—maybe the tiny LeMay room or maybe one of the CC rooms. Both were suggested as possibilities. The DRAC was advised that this aspect of the new policy was discussed but no plan was made to address this circumstance.

Intermixed with the reservations policy was a discussion of the importance of fixing the real problem instead of trying to eliminate consequences of the problem. The real problem was said to be that there are not enough wait staff to handle the surge of diners who would like to eat at 5 or 5:15 p.m. Morrison are only allowed to hire the number of food service staff that the corporate management of Blue Skies include in the budget. This means that

the real problem will not be fixed unless the administrative staff at Blue Skies increase the number of front of the house and back of the house staff for food services in the Blue Skies budget. Corollary issues that were raised include the loss of cooks because they have to work so hard in a very cramped kitchen, the lack of bus service to Blue Skies which results in staff having to have a car or pay Uber rates to get to and from work.

B. Nikki Villa-Dining Services Manager

- There will be a Rodeo theme dinner on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.
- Compliments of the Thrift Shop and Morrison, there will be a Cowboy Breakfast on January 31, 2025 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m on the dance floor in the Lakeview

C. Brian Greybeal--Resident Services Director BSTW.

Mr. Graybeal did not report because he did not attend the meeting.

5. Standing and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

A. Dining Room Committee-Chair Jerry Pierce

The next Coffee with the Chef will be on February 6 at 9:30 am. Remainder of Chair's report was presented in the discussion of reservations.

B. Quality Control Committee-Vice Chair Ron Hatchett's report

In future all response cards will be sent to the Chair of the Quality Control Committee so their substance can be evaluated and personal preferences can be dealt with differently from issues on which there is general agreement. For instance, Personal Preference: some residents like their vegetables barely cooked and others like them "well done" but all residents prefer to have their vegetables hot. Quality Control will be looking to identify and fix issues on which there is general agreement.

Guy Fanelli interjected here: Recently there have been more instances of cool food. The much colder ambient temperature combined with a faulty motor in the warming system was causing the loss of heat. This motor has been repaired and food should be warmer. He also commented that one of the cooks has been promoted and is being trained to do batch cooking.

C. Menu Committee –The committee did not meet in December.

D. Webmaster Committee

Webmaster Ron Miller reminded the new DRAC representatives that in December representatives seemed to agree that monthly usage reports would cease and only anomalies would be reported.

6. DRAC Representative Comments and Resident Comments

- The next Kitchen Tour will be in February, 2025 at 2 p.m. Nikki Villa will get with Lu Shuster to set a specific date.
- The administrative staff of Blue Skies sets the number of staff that Morrison is allowed to hire.
- The installation of the new oven for the Bistro is being delayed because the vendor will not be shipping it until January 17, 2025.
- The February B&A is February 12, 2025, and the sign-up sheet is already out. The sheet will be pulled on February 6.
- Chef and Guy Fanelli are working on a restructuring of the dinner meal. They are considering new options for the a la carte menu.
- The bourbon glazed brussel sprouts were good.
- The luncheon cycle menu is different every day for a month and then repeats.
- Another request for fresh fruit with the same response: when it has been available, residents have not chosen to pay a dollar or two for a banana, apple, orange and the fruit is left to rot.

7. Old Business--Not on the agenda.

8. New Business

A. Appointment of Secretary

With the support of ghost writers to take notes of the meeting and provide the first draft of the minutes each month, Dottie Cowan volunteered to assume all other duties of the Secretary described in the Bylaws and was appointed as Secretary by the Representatives. The substitute ghost writers for March will be Randy Walters and Barb Walters.

B. Appointment of New DRAC Representatives to fill Vacancies

- Lakes 1100 –1500: New residents in #1412 Randy Walters and Barb Walters volunteered to serve as representatives for this area and were approved by the Representatives. Welcome Randy and Barb.
- Still needed are one representative for each of the following areas:
 - Tower 2
 - Tower 3
 - Tower 4
 - The Gardens

C. Appointment of Committee Members

Volunteers for committees were reminded that they serve in a representative capacity in these positions and need to get input from their own constituents and other residents, not just rely on their own preferences.

- Quality Control Committee—Chair per Bylaws Ron Hatchett. The following volunteers were approved as members of this committee
 - Barb Walters
- Menu Committee—Chair per Bylaws Dottie Cowan. The following volunteers were approved as members of this committee
 - Gail Gant
 - Ron Hatchett
 - Garrie Gillespie
 - Randy Walters
- Elections Committee—Due to the meeting already being in overtime and there being no immediate work to be done by this committee, appointments to this committee were postponed until February.

9. Adjournment of meeting

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and approved unanimously.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on

February 13, 2025, at 1:30 p.m., in the Roadrunner Lounge.