

Dining Room Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025, 1:30 pm, Roadrunner Lounge
Representatives and Residents Invited

1. Call to order and Determination of Quorum

- A. The Chair announced that a quorum was present.
- B. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm .
- C. June minutes were approved as presented.

2. Announcements and Comments from Jerry Pierce, Chair

- A. Welcome to Peter Klein, new member of DRAC from Tower 4.

- B. Comments on Request for Proposals from Dining Services Vendors:

The vendor selected was Restaura. It is reported to be a well-financed Start-up from Boston. Among it's staff are former CEOs from Unidine and Morrison. 30% of its income and stock are owned by its employees. Blue Skies is its second contract. The first was in Hilton Head SC. They are offering a new concept with organic foods and "food to order". This means food will not be cooked the day before and be reheated. You will order and then it is Prepared. There will be a big push to dine-in. There will be less emphasis On cafeteria style choices. The dining venues will be open longer hours. The take out service is expected to allow pre-ordered selections to be Prepared for pick-up at a specific time. The 5 year contract will protect Blue Skies' employees; they can continue working here if they choose to. It will also protect Morrison employees, if they choose to stay. (Those looking For other opportunities include Guy Fanelli, Nikki Villa, Frank the Sous Chef and Chef Jeronimo.) Resident Director, Danielle Weintraub added that Part of the selection process included "tasting ceremonies" held at East. These Were intended to demonstrate how each vendor would operate in our facilities. The "judges" included the Presidents of the Residents Councils, the DRAC Chairmen, 30 residents selected by lottery, and administrative staff. Restaura won this competition. Restaura has offered to contribute \$800,000 Toward operations over the next 5 years. There are deadlines for the Contributions and no indications about how that amount will be apportioned Between East and West. Blue Skies will never be required to reimburse these Funds. Restaura has also offered \$330,000 that Blue Skies will need to Reimburse, if used. Restaura will provide training on its new concepts and Technology. The new changed concept for the Bistro includes more

selections,

But no other details were available. The new concepts are expected to require 7 more staff but the cost of meals remains at \$19. Residents will have the Opportunity for input on the menus. Last week there was an announcement Meeting to which those involved in the selection process were invited,

Although apparently there were uninvited guests present as well. CEO Jones is planning a Town Hall to make a formal announcement with discussion of the Proposal process.

3. Dining Services - Exo-Officio Member Reports

- A. Guy Fanelli - Director of Dining Services - no report
- B. Nikki Villa - Dining Services Manager - no report
- C. Chef Jerinomo - August 20 is Korean theme day
- D. BOTH and FOTH nominations
Ryun Taylor was voted August BOTH employee of the month
Lily Wenbolt was voted FOTH employee of the month

4. Standing Committee Reports

No reports from Dining room committee, Quality Control Committee or Menu Committee.

5. DRAC Representatives and Resident Comments

- A. Gail Gant - Gumbo is getting better all the time. Some discontent About roasted kale being overcooked.
- B. Peggi Parkhill - August B&A was a good experience. Beef was perfectly prepared.
- C. Garrie Gillespie - Green beans were great, as was the breakfast casserole.
Albondigus soup was excellent. Could there be homemade hot sauce?
Towers 3 and 4 are organizing an event to familiarize residents with Procedures and technology to be held soon.

6. Resident Comments

A question about how the comment card process works regarding getting Responses. There are three collection boxes and Nikki empties them daily. On line comments have a place to indicate if a response is requested. Be sure To mark that on the card.

7. Old business - None discussed

8. New Business

After noting that he stepped up during a time of upheaval and has served Through the selection process for a new Dining Service provider, Jerry Pierce Announced his resignation effective immediately. Jerry and his spouse will Be leaving Blue Skies for personal reasons. He has asked Ron Hatchett to Serve as Chairman for the remainder of the year. Ron pointed out that this Was not intended to be a coup and said that there should be a discussion at

The next meeting to determine whether anyone else has an interest in the Position. Dottie Cowan, Secretary and Election Committee Chair, reminded Everyone that the normal election cycle occurs in October. Please let Dottie Know if you are interested in running for an officer or representative position.

Thank you Jerry for your service from all members of DRAC.

Adjournment of meeting - The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on September 11, 2025 at 1:30 pm in the Roadrunner Lounge.