

Dining Room Advisory Council Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 1:30 pm, Roadrunner Lounge
Representatives and Residents Invited

1. Call to order and Determination of Quorum

- A. The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:30 pm
- B. There was a quorum present
- C. The August minutes were approved as presented. Motion to approve by Clarke Ehrlich and Mary Hergert and seconded by Garrie Gillespie

2. Dining Services - Ex-Officio Member Reports

- A. Danielle Weintraub - Resident Services Director
For reservations for events, dinners, etc. during this transition period, contact Danielle so that she can coordinate with the new Catering Manager and Dining Services as soon as they are available
- B. Guy Fanelli - Director of Dining Services
No report about BSTW, but he does have a job
- C. Nikki Villa - Dining Services Manager
Dining services is at full staff
Thursday, September 18, is theme, Tour de France
- D. Chef Jeronimo - had day off, but his report was given by Guy Fanelli
Grill cook Ryun's last day is Sunday, September 13
There are 1.5 dishwasher positions unfilled
- E. BOTH and FOTH nominations - Jackie Ramos was voted September Employee of the month. Victor Compean was voted FOTH employee of the month, and Stephen Ramos was voted Liberty House dining Staff employee of the third quarter
- F. Chair, Ron Hatchett, said he was not sure how to classify the following Commendations:
 - * Thank you Guy Fanelli for all the care you have shown in keeping residents fed even in the most trying times over the past 10 years or so.
 - * Guy and his staff delivered meals to residents' doors during ice storm Yuri, which happened during the COVID epidemic. Blue Skies employees, including Guy, were seen wearing miners' helmets with lamps, standing in water in the dark so that they could make sandwiches and something hot (soup or stew) so residents never went hungry, despite the frozen pipes and flooded kitchen and dining room. Some employees even left families at home while they stayed at Blue Skies to care for residents And make sure they had food.
 - * Early in the COVID pandemic, Guy was seen in his suit, sweeping up

trash near the Bistro with a broom. What a good boss, someone who would get down and dirty when needed.

- * Still at work every day after an operation, despite a very painful looking limp, Guy was even coming out of his office to check on the kitchen instead of staying in his office - which would have been easier.
- * Again THANK YOU!
- * AND Commendations to Chef Jeronimo for his superb specialty meals: Pop-ups, Prix fixes, ethnic food theme days, B&As and holiday buffets. These have added great variety to the dining enjoyment of residents at Blue Skies.

3. Standing and AdHoc Committee Reports

- A. Quality Control report was given as part of employee of the month discussion.
- B. No Menu Committee report.

4. DRAC Representatives and Resident Comments

- A. Lu Schuster - no Kitchen Tours until after January 1.
- B. Clarke Ehrlich - B&A pork chops at his table were very good.
- C. Mary Hergert -Prime rib pop-up on Friday, September 5, was excellent.
- D. Garrie Gillespie - Meeting of residents from Towers 3 and 4 has been Delayed until Restaura starts, so orientation can include what's new.
- E. Peter Klein - Representatives from Restaura were on campus on Wednesday, September 10 and visited with residents at several Tables in the Lakeview before the B&A got underway.

5. Resident Comments

- A. Barbara Baruch asked whether Restaura would be offering gluten free options. Danielle responded that that would be included in the discussions with Restaura.
- B. Donna Bowman announced that the next B&A will be on October 8 and the theme is Autumn Leaves. Sign up sheets are already in CC3. Sign up by Wednesday, October 1. Sheets will be picked up early, definitely before lunch on October 2.
- C. Peggi Parkhill confirmed that more participants for the pre-dinner Social are desired.
- D. There are a few inconsistencies with items being updated on the portal.

6. Old business - None

7. New Business

Secretary Dottie Cowan reviewed the DRAC election process:

A. Elections are held in October - Residents should submit Notice of Intent to Stand for election by October 14 There will be a submission Box and forms at the front desk October 1. The Elections Committee will

Review Notices to determine whether further elections will be needed (if more Notices are submitted than positions are needed). Currently there are the following vacant positions: 1 in Liberty House, 2 in the Gardens and 2 in the Lakes 1200-1500.

B. Announce results in November

C. Install new members in December

D. New members begin to serve in January and they will select the new Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at that meeting

She then reviewed the Mission of the Committee which is “to serve as the official liaison between Blue Skies of Texas West (BSTW) residents and the BSTW Dining Services Management and food service providers in matters pertaining to all aspects of dining, including menus, food preparation/ Quality, table service and dining room procedures.”

Article 3 in By-Laws states: Objectives of Committee

To encourage Blue Skies residents to become involved in their dining experience; To act as intermediary between residents and dining services Management; to monitor all aspects of food service on behalf of the Residents; to assist dining services and BSTW management by making cogent observations and suggestions for improvements; to monitor the Quality of meals, service, and dining procedures; to advise the Resident Services Manager in matters pertaining to food and dining; to structure The DRAC so as to operate efficiently and with transparency; and to disseminate relevant, current, and easily accessible information to Residents.

This election will comply with the By-Laws. All current members of DRAC were reminded that they serve a one year term and they need to submit a Notice of Intent to Stand for Election if they would like to continue to serve. They and all residents present were given the opportunity to submit Notices before they left the meeting.

Announcement from Chair, Ron Hatchett: he does not intend to Stand For Election. As current Chair, the By-Laws give him the authority to appoint a replacement Vice Chair to serve in October through December 2025. he would like to appoint someone who is willing to stand for election for a 2026 term and offer to stand for election as Chair during that year. He sees

this as a viable transition plan to strengthen the DRAC next year. He would like to make his appointment by September 18 and encouraged all who might be interested to submit their Notices as soon as possible - even at this meeting.

8. Motion was made to adjourn by Peggi Parkhill, and Clarke Ehrlich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 pm. The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2025 at 1:30 pm, in the Roadrunner Lounge.