

Notes From The Owners Group Meeting on Aug. 8, 2022

Short Summary: There were 22 in attendance, with lively discussion which only ended after reaching our desired ending time of 8:30. There was general agreement that unpaid volunteers should not be running a restaurant, and thus agreement that some entity should be responsible for the managing of the restaurant, and all that entails, including legal issues, hiring employees, etc. But in the interest of consistency, not if it costs too much!

Donna Bryce, today's chair, started the meeting by reminding people of the importance of owners' comments and actions. What owners have done to help with effort to get the homeless removed from the roof of the building next to the West Tower, and in some other areas nearby.

Fred Krogh mentioned the possibility of making our website more interactive by making it possible for users to be informed of comments when they are approved.

Most of the rest of the meeting had to do with **issues concerning the restaurant.**

- Several owners would like to see the consulting contract signed with Sodexo.

There is some confusion about the governing rules for the restaurant. There is some real concern that there appears to be nothing in the rules about the rights of those who are responsible for covering any costs associated with running the restaurant. An example of this issue is that the Board feels it prudent to pay a lawyer to determine whether owners have a right to see the contract, when if it were a COA contract that right is assured by law. My understanding now is that the restaurant is an ordinary corporation that just happens to never make a profit.

- What is the out-clause for the consulting contract? Are we going to have an assessment?
- Weekend service at least in terms of meal delivery was desired by some. It was available in the past but stopped because of lack of interest.

- Most of our attendees would like to see a survey of what both owners and renters feel about the value of the restaurant and for what the restaurant should provide. Two owners are willing to get started making up a survey, and would appreciate Steve's help, but would be willing to do it alone if there was a chance the board would give consideration to the results. The first restaurant survey (done in 2020) appears under a comment, here: <https://mcc-owners.org/2021/02/15/coa-issues/>

All agreed that the owners should be heard. Arguments in favor of a new survey:

- more renters, 40% a much higher percentage than in 2020.
- owners/renters are younger
- owners/renters more culturally diversified

- It was suggested that since Sodexo will be able to manage banquets, perhaps we could offer a class of membership that would give rights to use the restaurant, but no other amenities. But having this as a possibility might make our deal with Sodexo more attractive to them, and thus costs us less. There seems to be too many people here with no interest in the restaurant to make it viable.

All participants agreed that the Board are all good people and they appreciate the great amount of work they do on our behalf; but also all would like Board members to show a unified front.

Afterward: From the calls I have had, at least some of the board care very much what transpires in our meetings. A point that perhaps should have been made in our meeting: We have never (I think) had an agreement for the restaurant which: Does not open us up to lawsuits from restaurant employees, which removes all concerns about hiring and firing restaurant employees, with no need to get involved with issues concerning how much food to keep on hand, removes concern for organizing banquets, etc. etc. From our meeting I know many are concerned about the cost to the owners of having a restaurant, we should have a better idea of this issue prior to the signing of the final contract.

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