

Rotonda West Association, Inc.
646 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, FL 33947
Dead Restrictions Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order August 11, 2021, at 9:00 AM

Present: Les Goodman, Loni Kiedrowski, Barry Kean, Patricia Aho

Absent: Harley Effertz, Brian Armen

Staff: Holly Carr, Joe Harris

Zoom guests: Penny Hanson, Carlotta, Karen Adelman, John Harris, Nancy Schwechel, Brian Bell, Bryan Cordell, Mike Cislo, Bob Bonderson Leo Van Orden, Harley, Rod, Kent & Bonnie Anselment, Becky, Lynn Davis, Eric Christenson.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting were approved following a motion by Mr. Kean, seconded by Ms. Kiedrowski, and a unanimous committee approval vote.

Old Business: Signs

This special meeting of the DRC was held to further address the issue of signs on residential properties. During the previous DRC meeting, the committee members agreed to provide their recommendations for changes to section 22 of the deed restrictions. Each member spoke to their individual recommendations followed by a committee discussion.

Mr. Kean's recommendations focused on consistency among the County Code of Ordinances, RWA deed restrictions and the RWA sign guidelines. He advocates preapproval of certain categories of signs, subject to the guidelines. Limiting one sign per property excluding political signs during elections periods when one sign per candidate or ballot measure may be displayed. Sign restrictions should not apply to holiday decorations, but the RWA may impose reasonable limitations on the durations of the decorations. Political signs should be defined as a sign that states a position on a candidate or ballot issue and limiting the display of political signs to 45 days.

Mr. Armen was unable to attend the meeting but sent in his recommendations. He believes we should restate the deed restriction principle that signs are prohibited unless exceptions are noted and permitted by the BOD. RWA guidelines should reference county and state statutes frequently. A reasonable time limit of 3-5-7 days for general signs. Holiday decorations are not signs, but limited to 7-14 days excluding the Christmas period, from Thanksgiving to January 10, to include Hanukkah and Orthodox Christmas.

Mr. Goodman introduced a sign definition based on the county ordinance definition to be included in the RWA deed restrictions section of definitions. RWA elections need to be separate from Federal, state, and local elections restrictions. Signs need to be temporary with a defined display duration period. A definition of garden flags was introduced to be included in the sign guidelines. Certain categories of temporary signs should be preapproved.

Ms. Aho reviewed her track changes to section 22. She identified a political sign exemption to the one sign per lot/tract restriction. Defined temporary as three days before and three days after an event and not to exceed fourteen days. The need to change sign specifications to sign guidelines in section 22.

Ms. Kiedrowski recommends avoiding emotions surrounding signs, similar to the Memorial Day sign debacle, and stick to reasonable sign deed restrictions. There are too many different types of holidays to define and combining commemorative signs with holiday displays needs to be avoided. Political signs should be displayed no more than forty-five days and removed three days following an election. Sign deed restrictions should exclude the developer's properties, RWA properties, and religious organizations.

Mr. Effertz did not provide any recommendations.

Mr. Kean agreed to compile the written recommendations along with the committee discussion into a track change version to section 22. The sign definitions will be additions to the deed restrictions and be inserted into section 1 - Definitions.

Ms. Aho recommended that the committee hold off on changes to the sign guidelines until the changes and additions to section 22 are approved. Changes to the guidelines do not require developer approval.

Mr. Kean will attempt to complete a final draft of the recommendations prior to the next DRC meeting scheduled in two weeks.

There was no member input from the Zoom guests.

Meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM

Next Meeting: August 25, 2021, at 9:00 AM.