

Activity Fees

Residents of Sun City pay assessments to fund the administrative, maintenance and other services provided by the Community Association (CA). One of the services the CA provides is to organize and coordinate recreation activities. These activities are generally divided into two basic groups; structured and non-structured. Structured activities are planned activities coordinated by CA staff, Chartered Clubs or non-chartered interest groups. Examples of structured activities include aerobics and computer classes, parties and dances, trips and seminars. Non-structured activities are those that are not scheduled or coordinated. Residents participate in these activities at their own leisure. This could include playing billiards, relaxing at the pool, exercising in the Fitness Center, or “surfing on the Internet” in the Computer Lab.

While assessments provide Members of the CA the right to use CA facilities for non-structured activities, they do not necessarily cover the cost of structured activities. Some structured activities require participants to pay a fee to offset the direct expenses of the activity such as food, decorations, entertainment or supplies. Other activities are provided by contract instructors with special talents or skills. Still other activities are provided by Charter Clubs and non-chartered Interest Groups. Charter Clubs provide recreation activities consistent with CA policies and, in doing so, are provided priority and free use of CA facilities. These Clubs are designed to be self-sufficient and therefore may charge fees or dues depending on the club’s expenses. Non-chartered interest groups, while not offered the same rights and privileges of Chartered Clubs, provide recreational options for our residents. These interest groups are independent, self-sufficient and may also charge fees or dues to their members.

Generally speaking, contract instructors, Chartered Clubs and non-chartered interest groups enable the CA to provide a greater variety of recreational activities without increasing the expenses of the CA. The CA’s current philosophy is to charge fees for structured activities sufficient to cover the direct expenses of these activities. In doing so, the expense of the activity is passed on to only those who benefit from the activity. Put simply, if Mrs. Smith wants to take dance lessons, she pays her share of the expense for that activity. Therefore, Mr. Jones (who has no interest in dance lessons) does not subsidize Mrs. Smith’s interest. Again, residents who participate in an activity pay for the direct expenses of that program.

This is just one approach to providing recreational services to a community. Another would be to provide every service to everyone without charging additional fees. Under this approach all expenses related to recreational activities would be covered by general assessments. This approach would, in our case, either cause assessments to increase or limit the activities provided by the CA. I believe our current approach to funding recreational activities is fair and fiscally responsible. I hope that you agree.