

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2019
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Wilder Foundation – Annual Recognition Event

CALL TO ORDER

Bill Hughes, Chairperson, Iowa, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on May 24, 2019 at 9:45 a.m. Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated all Reps should have a copy of the Minutes from the last meeting, which are also posted for a month at each hi-rise and on the Presidents Council website. One discrepancy was noted and will be corrected in the record. A Motion was made by Melanie Fox, Montreal, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Ron Sexton, Exchange, and the Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, presented the report for April. The checkbook beginning balance as of April 30, 2019, was twenty-eight thousand, seven hundred fifty eight dollars and ninety-six cents (\$28,758.96). The ending balance is fifty-seven thousand, three dollars and seventy-one cents (\$57,003.71). The report will be filed for audit.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mela Krick, Housing Manager, stated the main conversation around the PHA is RAD, and they want to get the news out that this is happening. They're looking at a *closing date* in August; which means their goal is to be officially RAD by October 1st. What that means is that RAD is a stronger and more secure funding source for the PHA. But with that, there is going to be some changes in the policy. What you will be seeing in the next few weeks is a lot of staff training. So you may notice that your Manager may be absent for up to a week to learn the new implementation and processes. Every resident lease holder – 18-years-old and older – will have to sign a new lease. There will be meetings at every site to discuss program changes, and interpreters will be available. You will have to sign new lease and also the House Rule which is an addition to the lease. If you have any questions, speak with your Manager. Packets will be mailed out with the date and time of the meetings.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Grundhauser, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit, stated they have just finished their safety presentations, which were given at each hi-rise by Patty Lammer, Crime Prevention Specialist. Anything that is crime prevention related will be addressed by Patty Lammer if your hi-rise requests it.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT (continued)

He also spoke about people coming into the buildings that you don't know. There have been three arrests made of some of these individuals. He stressed that if you have any questions, you can contact him at any time. He also said the crime rate in public housing is lower than the city of St. Paul. He is very thankful for all of the help residents have given him in his first year as the head of ACOP.

OLD BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, stated that at last month's Presidents Council Meeting, the P.C. approved a new Check Policy, a copy of which is in all Reps packets. The Check Policy has been posted for the past thirty days on the Presidents Council office bulletin board and also on the P.C. webpage. Melanie Fox, Montreal, made a Motion that the new Check Policy be approved. It was seconded by John Cardoza, Cleveland, and the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, stated the Minutes from the Presidents Council Executive Board meeting are also in your packets, which contains information she wants everyone to be aware of.

- The contract to service the copying machine in the P.C. office was sent to us in May, and the Executive Board decided to not renew the contract with Abacus Copy Systems. That will save the P.C. \$644.24 annually. There are other printers that can be used.
- Hi-Rise financial documents for previous years are now being stored on two external hard drives, which are kept in the P.C. office. The previous Fiscal Year and the current Fiscal Year will continue to be stored in Drop Box. This frees up data space so that the P.C. can continue to use Drop Box at no charge. Drop Box has been working very well for several years, but we are approaching the maximum amount of storage.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

John Cardoza, Commissioner, Cleveland, gave updates from a special Board meeting on May 8th to discuss a proposal from the city of South St. Paul to possibly have a management agreement between South St. Paul and the PHA. That's something that's ongoing. The OIR (Officer-In-Residence) program to be included in RAD was also approved. John also mentioned the retirement of Randy Taylor, who has been employed by the PHA since 1986. Any questions residents may have can be found on the P.C. website at: www.stpha.org,

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, is a member of the Resident Initiatives Department. Her job as Section 3 Coordinator is to organize partnerships and find people jobs, field training, and education that will lead to employment.

She spoke about the St. Paul Science Museum, and stated she now has sixty-two volunteers who will be planning many different types of activities. She also emphasized that if a group of residents go to the Science Museum, they should all use their own discount voucher.

SECTION 3 UPDATE (continued)

After visiting ten times, your hi-rise will received 100 FREE tickets. If you have any questions, contact Beth Pacunas either by email at www.elizabeth.pacunas.org, or call her at: **651-228-3204**.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said everyone should be working on making sure the new Vending Contracts are signed. You should already have decided whether to stay with your present vendor, or change to another. There are blank Vending Contracts in your packets and she also has extras if needed. You can also get a copy off the P.C. webpage. It's important when you work with your vendor, that you get a Certificate of Insurance, which must be kept with your Vending Contract. Also a copy of the Vending Contract and Certificate of Insurance must be sent to the Presidents Council.

Elections are in the process and the voting for officers will take place at your June meetings. If you have any questions or problems, contact your Manager or Julia Hupperts.

Officer training takes place in August at the downtown office. Exact dates haven't been determined yet, but you will be informed regarding that. New officers will be trained on how a resident council functions and how to work with it. She also reminded everyone to be sure to get a shopping bag contains seeds and snap bracelets. Free mugs were also given out.

There will be a short break before the Officer Recognition Event, to allow people to eat some catered food.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson
PC/RPC Secretary
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OFFICER RECOGNITION EVENT

Emcees Melanie Fox, Montreal, and Donna Kay Walters, Seal, took roll call of hi-rises attending and then announced the first item on the agenda.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Grant Program Coordinator, stated she helps coordinate the health and wellness initiatives through their partnership with St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health, and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, otherwise known as SHIP.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE (continued)

She's going to talk today about the Park Ambassador's Program that's been going on for three years through a partnership with St. Paul Parks & Rec. The purpose is to get people out to the regional and city parks and interacting with nature, which can have benefits to your well-being. She then read information from the University of Minnesota which explains how interacting with nature affects many parts of your life, not just mentally, but physically as well.

Betsy presented a slide show which pointed out where city and regional parks are located. The slide show also showed scenes from some of their trips that were made to parks, along with what activities took place there. They hope to add more parks to visit in the future.

RESIDENT SPEAKERS

Chuck Gentz, Exchange and *Donna Walters*, Seal. Chuck spoke about the Wilder Neighborhood Leadership Program. He learned from the program how many different ways there are to get involved in the community, and there are lots of resources to tap into so there's something for everyone.

Donna Walters, Seal, spoke about what she's learned from the Neighborhood Leadership Program. She strongly recommends that anyone interested should fill out the application and go through the program.

HI-RISE COMPUTER PEERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Melissa Pappas, Seal, spoke about the hi-rise computer team and the history behind it. In 2009 when the hi-rises first got computers, it was only Melissa Pappas who went out to the hi-rises to fix any problems. We had an IT tech through the ROSS Grant at one time, who handled computer problems, but when the ROSS Grant ended, there was a need to form a Computer PEER Team to do that work. Some hi-rises now have resident Computer Administrators who maintain the computers; but if they're unable to fix a problem, or there is no Computer Administrator, a Computer PEER team member will come out to help. She wanted to recognize and thank all those who participate in maintaining hi-rise computers.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Alicia Huckleby, PHA; Diane Anastos, PHA and Julia Hupperts, PHA, presented Certificates of Recognition. The first certificates awarded were for recognition for the great work officers of the individual resident councils do at their hi-rises. She asked that the people stand when the name of their hi-rise was called, to receive their certificate. The hi-rises receiving certificates were: Central, Cleveland, Dunedin, Edgerton, Exchange, Front, Hamline, Iowa, Montreal, Mt. Airy, Neill, Ravoux, Seal, Valley, Wabasha and Wilson. She congratulated them all.

Alicia also presented Certificates of Recognition to the Computer PEERS. The following people were recognized: Jerlene Clark, Gerard Forys, Keri Levin, Melissa Pappas and Ron Sexton

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said the Presidents Council changed the focus of Community Building. They renamed it Community Sharing. There is a monthly meeting at the downtown office where a representative from each hi-rise comes to the meeting and they're all volunteers and it's been impressive the number of people who have participated. She presented Certificates of Recognition to the following volunteers: Sharon Baker, Montreal; Angela Graves, Hamline; Phil Lee, Seal; Melissa Pappas, Seal and Donna Walters,

seal. She also wanted to recognize those residents who do community building on their own; i.e., organizing bingo, movie nights, etc.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Commissioner, Cleveland, said one of the big items that went through the Board of Commissioners that was approved by the PHA, was the hiring of new staff for the hi-rises. Now there is full-time staff at all of the hi-rises. He also spoke about employees that retired this year; some having thirty years or more working for the PHA.

Another item was the transition to the Tenmast software, which is still on-going and will help with the RAD program. Training for all managers will be given.

SENIOR STAFF SPEAKERS

Louise Seeba, PHA Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel to the PHA, is one of a large team of senior staff members. She asked the senior staff to stand, introduce themselves and be recognized. Louise said she has enjoyed hearing about all of the successes of the resident councils, and thanked them all for their hard work. She then went on to recognize the Community Sharing group, Computer team and Computer PEERS, et al.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES

Alicia Huckleby, PHA Resident Initiatives Director and Human Resources Director, thanked everyone in the room and said it's been another great year of your support of the PHA, PHA staff, PHA partners and your fellow resident council members. She especially wanted to thank the planning committee for the Officers Recognition Event for all of their hard work putting it together. She also said her theme for the coming year is "*service in mentorship*". And for those who have been at this for some time, try and think of ways you can share your experience in an effective way with your fellow officers, with the goal of strengthening your council as a whole.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator said she received an email from Angela Holm. Ms. Holm is the PHA Assistant Controller the Presidents Council and the sixteen Hi-Rise Resident Councils work with to remain fiscally responsible. She then read Angela's email. Julia also looks forward to officer training in August.

Meeting Reminders

Next Presidents Council Meeting: September 23 @ 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee: September 13 @ 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Sharing Circle: June 7 – 3rd floor.

Computer Team: June 20 @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.