

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Tim Gjerdahl, Chairperson, Ravoux, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on October 22, 2018 at 10:15 a.m. Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated all Reps should have been given a copy of the Minutes from the last meeting. If you've found any discrepancies or errors in those Minutes, bring them up during the Secretary's Report at the next meeting. A Motion was made by Donna Walters, Seal, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Ron Sexton, Exchange and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Betsy Christensen, SHIP Coordinator, introduced Kathy Flaminio, Social Worker, Minneapolis Public Schools, who presented a 45-minute training session regarding *Managing Chaos in a Chaotic World, Mindfully*, using breathing and physical techniques and exercises. She left some information regarding movements that help relieve stress. A prize drawing was held at the end of the session and stress balls were made available to the P.C. Reps.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, presented the report for September. The checkbook register balance as of September 30, 2018 was twenty-eight thousand one hundred ninety-two dollars and fifty-five cents (\$28,192.55). The ending balance is twenty-seven thousand, six hundred fifty-six dollars and forty-nine cents (\$27,656.49). The report will be filed for audit.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Tim Angaran, Assistant Maintenance Director. The PHA awaits HUD approval to proceed with a Board-approved contract to install therapeutic walk-in tubs in hi-rise buildings. The PHA received one bid for this work. HUD must also approve the award of this large contract before the PHA can proceed.

During the week of November 5th, PHA staff from all departments will be attending training on a new agency-wide software system that will go live during November. At times, calls to the Work Order Hotline may be handled by the after-hours answering service as staff members attend training sessions. Service will remain unchanged, but any calls may be answered by non-PHA staff.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager. All eight new Assistant Housing Managers have been hired. Seven of the managers will start their new positions this month at the following hi-rises: Julie Sitzmann, Iowa; Sam Draper, Neill & Wabasha; Kou Her, Edgerton; Jemica Mims, Valley; Sarath Nah, Central; Jamie Hess, Hamline and Julie Lo, Wilson. One manager for Front Hi-Rise will start in November.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT (continued)

The PHA will implement a new software system called “Tenmast” and will have a quiet week from November 5 until November 8, while staff acquaint themselves with the new system.

Valley plumbing restoration has been completed. They’ve begun the Renovation Plumbing Project at Montreal and anticipate the project to end by October 2019.

Transit Assistance Program (TAP) is available for residents to allow discounted rates for \$1.00 ride bus cards. A flyer will be in November rent statements. Your manager or HSC will be able to assist for sign-up.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Grundhauser, St. Paul Police Department will give a report at our next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft copies of the amended Stipends and Budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 – which had been posted on the P.C. website for thirty days – was presented for approval by the P.C. John Cardoza, Cleveland made a Motion that the Stipends be approved as amended. Teresa Souvannachack, Montreal, seconded and the Motion carried. A Motion was made by Donna Walters, Seal, that the amended Budget be approved. The Motion was seconded and was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, explained that at the last meeting of the P.C. Executive Board, no members accepted the jobs of Secretary and Treasurer, so they voted to approve the appointments of Bob Knutson, Ravoux, for Secretary and Melissa Pappas, Seal for Treasurer. They will serve as ex-officio members of the P.C. Executive Board. Donna Walters, Seal, made a Motion that Bob Knutson, Ravoux be appointed Secretary. It was seconded by John Cardoza, Cleveland and the Motion Carried. Bill Hughes, Iowa made a Motion that Melissa Pappas, Seal be appointed Treasurer, which was seconded by Teresa Souvannachack, Montreal and the Motion Carried. The respective appointees were asked to stand and were then sworn into office by Julia Hupperts.

Julia Hupperts also read the Memorandum of Understand (MOU) which is an understanding between the Presidents Council and the PHA. She then read the MOU. Ron Sexton, Exchange, made a Motion the MOU be accepted as written. John Cardoza, Cleveland, seconded and the Motion carried. As presiding chairperson, Julia Hupperts had Tim Gjerdahl, Ravoux, sign and date the MOU.

John Cardoza, Cleveland, read the amended draft copy of the Cold Weather Rule, which states: **“If at 7:00 a.m., -- as reported by WCCO (Channel 4), on the morning of any regularly scheduled P.C.-sponsored meeting -- the actual temperature is 1-degree below zero and/or the wind chill is 20-degrees below zero, all PC-related meetings will be cancelled and will not be rescheduled for that month.”** A Motion was made by Ron Sexton, Exchange, that the amended Cold Weather Rule be approved. It was seconded by Donna Walters, Seal and the Motion carried.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Commissioner, Cleveland, presented the report. On September 26, 2018, the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) Board of Commissioners approved the following actions:

1. Therapeutic walk-in bathtubs at Neill, Cleveland, Iowa, Dunedin, Wilson, Ravoux, Seal and Montreal.
2. Security camera updates at PHA sites.
3. T-Mobile Rooftop Lease for Dunedin: Lease 9/26/18-01/2039, with expected rent revenue during contract of \$33,000.00.
4. HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program approved 30 additional Vouchers. HUD-VASH is a partnership with the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Minneapolis. The new vouchers will bring the PHA's total of VASH vouchers to 231; and the total number of subsidies for all Section 8 programs including VASH is now 4,754.
5. Revising Flat Rents in Public Housing; Admission & Occupancy Policies.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

A report will be given at the next meeting.

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 getting free tickets to the Science Museum of Minnesota (up to 6 per family). They would also like to know what you think. They will be coming to your resident council meetings in the coming months so you can share your ideas about future events that the Science Museum and the St. Paul PHA would like to create together.

The Science Museum of Minnesota and the St. Paul PHA invite you to use an exclusive Great Partners discount coupon on your visits to the Science Museum. Tickets to only the Exhibits are \$3.00 and Omnitheater plus Exhibits are \$5.00. Children under age 4 are FREE. Here's how it works: You get a discounted ticket voucher to use unlimited times at the Science Museum. Once your community or building uses ten vouchers, it unlocks 100 FREE tickets. These free tickets will be available through other community activities, your HSC or resident council.

The Science Museum of Minnesota turns on the science and inspires learning, informs policy, and improves lives. They value Science as an essential literacy. The ability to understand and use science is essential to educational success and full civic and economic participation in the world. It's fun, accessible learning. They engage learners by sparking interest and supporting deep science learning through wonder, play, hands-on exploration and experimentation. If you have any questions regarding this program, contact Beth Pecunas at Elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org, or call her for more information at **651-228-3204**.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Ann Tranvik, St. Paul Public Health Department Nurse, works with Betsy Christensen, Resident Initiatives and those involved with the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP). They had the following to share:

Got Diabetes? – “Living Well With Diabetes” Classes are now available.

- Classes are open to pre-diabetic, diabetics or anyone who cares for someone with Diabetes.
- 6-week free series, 2-1/2 hour class, with small group discussion led by two trained facilitators. Families of residents are invited to attend also. They will be held at Cleveland Hi-Rise: **Wednesday 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.** Central Hi-Rise: **Monday 11/5 – Intro, 11/12, 11/19, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 1:30 to 4:00 p.m.** For more information contact the Human Services Coordinator (HSC) at these sites.

Drop-In Smoking Cessation Support Stations Available on November 15, 2018.

- Cessation Support Stations will be available for 1-1/2 to 2 hours on November 15 at most PHA hi-rises, in coordination with the national *Great American Smoke Out*. Stop by and get a free carbon monoxide test and a quit kit (while supplies last). Also get information about cessation medication resources. Watch for the flyer in early November with the complete schedule.

PHA Garden Mentor Program Training Applications opens November 5, 2018.

- Residents who love to garden, want to grow gardening and leadership skills, and want to support their community gardens are encouraged to apply. The training is free, meets six times, and is led by *Ramsey County Master Gardeners*. The dates are: **Mondays 1/28/19, 2/11/19, 2/25/19, 3/11/19, 3/25/19, 4/8/19, 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.** It's required that participants attend 4 out of 6 training sessions.
- Sessions will be held at Mt. Airy Community Center with one field trip made to a local garden during the summer. Topics covered include soil quality, composting, seed starting, pest management, pollinators and community building. Light refreshments will be served. Graduates of the program receive a Garden Mentor t-shirt. For more information contact Youa Thao at youa.thao@stpha.org or call **651-298-5208**.
- **FREE Bike for Kids at PHA Family Sites.** PHA has been selected for the 7th year as a community partner with the organization *Free Bikes 4 Kidz*. Youth living at the family sites have an opportunity to receive a free bike and helmet. Bike giveaway events will take place December 4-7.

If you're interested in volunteering for the bike giveaways at family sites, contact Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Program at **651-298-4030**, or betsy.christensen@stpha.org.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, introduced two people at the meeting who stood and introduced themselves and give a brief description of their new job duties. These two new staff members are important parts of the PHA in helping with jobs involving the Resident Initiatives Department. Julia also will rely on them to bring coffee and water to the P.C. meetings.

CLOSING (continued)

Tuesday, November 6, the mid-term elections are held, so if your hi-rise is a polling station, it will be open to everyone in the community to come and vote. You will not be able to have your resident council meeting that day.

Monday, November 12 is Veterans Day and is a PHA holiday. All PHA offices will be closed. Any resident council meetings scheduled for November 12 are to be cancelled and won't be rescheduled for that month. Any resident council that needs to meet before December should call an Emergency Meeting. However, that meeting should have a very limited focus; usually only one important topic. This also pertains to any holidays when the PHA is closed, as managers, or their representative, are required to attend meetings.

She emphasized that resident council Boards should work as a team to provide the best service to the residents as possible. If there are disputes, they should be taken to the **Dispute Resolution Center**, which is located at the Mt. Airy Community Center; but they will come and meet with you at your hi-rise. There is no charge for their services. Their phone number is **651-292-7791**.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary
peetiebird2@gmail.com

Meeting Reminders:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, November 26, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Executive Committee: Monday, November 16 @ 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Sharing Circle: November 2 @ 10:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Computer Team: November 15 @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.