

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Jesse Thomas, Seal, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated all Reps had a copy of last month's Minutes in their information packets. The Presidents Council Minutes are also available on the P.C. website at www.stphapresidentscouncil.org. Any discrepancies found in the Minutes should be brought up during the Secretary's Report at the next meeting. A Motion was made by Amy Seaman, Montreal, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Camille Gunderson, Neill, and the Motion carried.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP unit, said she's been working with all PHA managers to present a personal safety presentation that will be coming out to all the hi-rises and family sites. A representative from ACOP will be at these presentations, along with St. Paul Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinators. They hope to accomplish this within the next two months. If you need further information regarding ACOP, or have questions, contact Sgt. Boyer at **651-558-2305**, or email her at Amy.Boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Ashley Osteraas and Maria Quick, ZAN Associates, Recycling Ambassador Program (RAP). Maria Quick said the Mission Statement for the RAP is that Recycling Ambassadors would actively engage communities, serve as the voice for using waste as a resource, champion equity and environmental justice, promoting risk reduction in alignment with Ramsey County's goals and strategic directions. The role of the Recycling Ambassador is to serve as a volunteer on environmental health projects, Liaison to the community, knowledge resource on recycling and solid waste, engage with the community at events, support the county's goals and strategic direction, and actively promote wise waste management. She handed out a brochure that contained more information regarding this program.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for the month of January. The cleared balance is sixty thousand, four hundred fourteen dollars and three cents (\$60,414.03). The ending balance is fifty-seven thousand, five hundred eighty-one dollars and fifteen cents (\$57,581.15). The report will be filed for audit.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager, gave an update on projects.

- The laundry machine swap out is going well and is almost completed. The contractor, CSC, and a Maintenance Contracts person will be attending resident council meetings in the future. They will be talking about the new laundry machines and answer any questions you may have regarding that.
- He gave an update on the installation of new elevators at Exchange, Neill, Dunedin and Central hi-rises.
- The Front Hi-Rise plumbing and boiler project is being put together and they plan to have a town hall meeting there in the next couple of months, to talk about Front residents about the project and answer any questions.
- Central and Exchange roof replacements are on schedule and will be started in April, depending on the weather.

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director, Construction Program Manager updated the P.C. on the whirlpool tub installations. Wabasha, Edgerton and Front have been completed and are ready to go. Exchange will be done shortly, after some flooring is completed. There are a few plumbing issues at Central which need to be sorted out, but should be up and running soon. He'll have more to report in the coming months. Mike and Brent then took questions.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, reminded everyone that at each site there should be classes and courses on how to use the online rent payment on the PHA website taking place. These will continue through February and March.

Some residents may receive two rent statements, one from Public Housing and also a rent statement from Multi-Family, which we are now designated as. If some residents are confused as to why they're receiving these two different invoices, they should know to pay them both. There may be money still owed to Public Housing. Once payment is made, they will stop receiving invoices from Public Housing. If you have questions, see your Manager.

A plumbing renovation will be coming up for Front Hi-Rise, so they are looking to get about forty vacant units that will be needed during this project. Right now it's in the planning phase and they will be having a meeting at Front within the next few months to make the residents aware that this will be happening this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Amy Seaman, Montreal, agreed to head a committee to look further into the LYFT Grant that the P.C. was looking to apply for. She said after careful consideration, she saw no reason why the P.C. shouldn't apply for the Grant. A Motion was made by John Cardoza, Cleveland, that the P.C. make application for the LYFT Grant. The Motion was seconded by Violet Brant, Wilson and the Motion carried. If you need further information or clarification, contact Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said there were still four hi-rises that have not returned the form that verifies the number or name of the mail box for their resident council. Please check to make sure your hi-rise has sent in this form. Any checks will be withheld for those hi-rises that have not returned the verification.

She also spoke about political campaigning in PHA hi-rises. There is a flyer in your packets that contains the guidelines regarding campaigning, and which should be posted by the front entrance of each building. Normally the candidate must be present when any campaigning is done. However, for important elections; i.e., for governor, senator, president, etc. the candidate does not need to be present.

She called for a discussion from the Representatives regarding having campaigning at their resident council meetings. Much discussion took place and it was unanimously decided the Political Campaigning flyer be changed to reflect the decision that there be no political campaigning during resident council meetings. Ron Sexton, Exchange, made a Motion that there be no political campaigning during monthly resident council meetings. The Motion was seconded by Amy Seaman, Montreal, and was carried. The flyer will be amended stating this.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, noted that the tote bags put on the table for each hi-rise were courtesy of the people who conducted a series of staff trainings here at the PHA, to prepare the management staff for RAD's new rules and regulations. Each staff member that attended got one of these bags and in addition they sent a lot of extra ones that was enough to provide one for each hi-rise.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Commissioner, Cleveland, was not available at our last meeting, so he gave an update for the months of January and February. For more information about what took place at the Commissioner's meetings, information can be found on the PHA website.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Betsy Christensen, SHIP Coordinator, passed out a flyer of the *February 2020 Presidents Council SHIP Updates*, which should be brought back to your resident council and posted in your buildings for residents to see the various activities that are or will be taking place through the SHIP Grant.

She emphasized the Phalen Freeze Fest, which is coming up this Saturday, February 29th between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Activities include ice fishing, fire building, arts and crafts, cooking over a fire, snow shoeing, story stroll and much more. Free warm beverages will also be available.

She also spoke about FREE Bicycle Lights. Information included:

- A limited number of bicycle lights are available
- First come, first served
- Must be a PHA resident who is current bicycling
- One set of bicycle lights per person
- Bicycle lights are rechargeable

SHIP GRANT UPDATE (continued)

To request bicycle lights: Contact Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP, at **651-298-4030** or email her at betsy.christensen@stpha.org.

Bright orange Pedestrian safety crossing flags. Betsy will be reaching out to the different neighborhood councils to see if residents are interested in having a flag for their own use. She has a short supply of them presently, but more can be ordered. She passed around a sign-up sheet for any hi-rise wanting more flags.

Ann Tranvik, Ramsey County Public Health Nurse, also reminded Representatives about the February 2020 Presidents Council SHIP Update flyer, and the importance of posting that information for residents to read about upcoming events. She stated the class for “*Living Well with Diabetes Series*” has been shortened to two hours, instead of two and a half hours.

She passed around a group of ten copies of the Food Resource Guide to be brought back to your hi-rises to be available for residents

The QuitPlan phone number is changing April 1st because of a funding change. It will now be managed by the State of Minnesota Department of Health. If you have questions, contact Ann Tranvik at **651-266-2509** or email her at ann.tranvik@co.ramsey.mn.us.

GREEN INITIATIVES REPORT

Natalie Mikkelson, PHA Green Initiatives Technician, spoke about the Garden Mentor Program which is starting this evening from 4-6 p.m. Residents from several hi-rises have enrolled. She is in the process of meeting with gardeners from all of the hi-rises, as well. Flyers for the March garden committee meetings have been posted and they will meet to discuss their budgets, which will be presented at your April resident council meetings.

If you have any feedback regarding the Recycling Ambassadors Program, please give them to Natalie. Her number and email are listed below.

There were questions regarding food scraps and organic recycling. Unfortunately Ramsey County does not have curb-side pickup. She would be able to provide small counter top bins for those who would like to recycle food scraps, but it would be your responsibility to take them to a Ramsey County drop off site.

They have approximately 170 jars of honey left over, and anybody wanting to purchase a jar can contact Natalie Mikkelson at the phone number or email listed here. If you have any questions regarding Green Initiatives, or need further information, contact Natalie Mikkelson at **651-298-5222**, or email her at natalie.mikkelson@stpha.org.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy. Her job as Section 3 Coordinator is to organize partnerships and find people jobs, field training, and education that will lead to employment; anything that will help people get skills for work.

There are posters in the hi-rises about a class which is starting tomorrow for job skills training and inter-personal training in the workplace. The class will be held at 2:30 p.m. at McDonough Community Center.

SECTION 3 UPDATE (continued)

If you or someone you know is trying to find a job, obtain job skills or education, or if they just need more information on Section 3, spread the word and have them call Beth Pacunas at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at Elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, included the following flyers in your packets of information:

- Community Sharing Circle. The next meeting will be Friday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m. at Front Hi-Rise. She wanted to make clear that this meeting is open to all hi-rise residents, not just those where the event is taking place. It's also a great opportunity to share information about what's going on in the different hi-rises.
- Annual Officers Recognition Event 2020. This event will be held on Monday, June 1, 2020 at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway, St. Paul (corner of University and Lexington). The P.C. meeting will be held at 9:45-10:30 a.m., food will be served between 10:45-11:45 a.m. and the program will be from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., pending verification with the planning committee. The planning committee will be meeting this coming Friday at 12:00 p.m., and further information will be forthcoming. The cost for those attending will be \$25.00 per person, and RSVP's are due by May 13th, and payment is due along with your RSVP.
- Amherst H. Wilder Foundation Invoice. This invoice for the rental of the room for the Recognition Event has already been approved in the P.C. Budget. She wanted everyone to be aware of this invoice. 50% will be paid now to secure the room and the balance will be paid the day of the event.
- Resident Council Elections 2020. The time is nearing for elections once again. This flyer contains the schedule for various resident council meetings. If you are interested in being an Election Judge, there is an application on the backside of this flyer that must be completed. It would require going to a different hi-rise and helping them get officers to run their resident council. If you agree to be an Election Judge, you will be assigned to a hi-rise and will be required to attend their resident council meetings for the months of April, May and June.
- Vending Fair. There will be a Vending Fair for the Presidents Council and Citywide Council on Monday, March 16, 2020 in the Ravoux Hi-Rise Community Room between the hours of 12:30-2:30 p.m. They will begin contacting all vendors and arranging the presentations.

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, March 23, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

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

Community Sharing: March 6 @ 10:00 a.m. at Front Hi-Rise.

Computer Team: February 27 @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.