

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

May 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Melanie Fox, Montreal, Chairperson, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and took a roll call of hi-rise Representatives present, along with PHA staff members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated you can always find a copy of the Minutes posted on the PC website. He also asked Representatives to instruct their resident council Secretaries to print a copy of the PC Minutes and post them along with the Minutes from their resident council meetings. Yasmine Aminou, Central, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Darlene Fisher, Mt. Airy, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jon Gutzmann, PHA Executive Director, was pleased to be at this meeting, and extended his greetings to all and thanked everyone for their outstanding services during this difficult past year. With Memorial Day coming up, he made note of the fact that as of today there has been 604,000 Covid-related deaths in America and many loved ones have been lost and we've all been touched by this in one way or another. It's been a tough year all around and he appreciates the kindness and helpfulness everyone has shown toward each other.

He did have a big announcement to make. **The PHA will be removing all Covid-19 related restrictions in the hi-rises beginning June 1st.** There will be no restrictions on crowd size in Community Rooms and those spaces will return to their regular hours of operation that individual councils have decided upon, no more restrictions on sharing of meals or organizing social gatherings; i.e. parties, picnics, etc. The PHA still, however, recommends social distancing, the wearing of masks and they recommend that people be vaccinated. Mr. Gutzmann also looks forward to seeing everyone when the PC meets again – hopefully in person – in September. The floor was then opened for any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for last month. The cleared balance is sixty-one thousand, one hundred seventy six dollars and forty-nine cents (\$61,176.49). The ending balance is fifty-eight thousand, three hundred twenty-one dollars and fifty-six cents (\$58,321.56). The report will be filed for audit. Melissa answered any questions.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager / Maintenance Contracts, gave an update. Maintenance staff has been busy getting out contract and bid documents, so projects will start to ramp up now. He reminded everyone to be sure and keep an eye out for notices sent out that may affect you in some way, or may affect the area you live in. If you have any questions reach out to the contacts on those notices or your Manager.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT (continued)

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director, had a few things to say as we go into the summer months.

1. Preventative Maintenance will be starting back up at some point in June or early July. And again, watch for notices announcing that work.
2. At the buildings that receive lawn fertilization, that will be starting up as soon as the weather cooperates where rain is concerned.
3. If you live in a building that has lawn sprinklers, those will be worked on and activated on Wednesday.
4. Weather permitting, parking lot sweeping and cleaning will be wrapping up in the next couple of weeks, so watch for notices for that so you can remove your car from the parking lots.
5. Life safety inspections, performed by their contractor, will be finishing up by the end of this week.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise Representatives.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Tara Johnson, Resident Services Senior Manager, stated that regular housekeeping inspections will begin in June and letters notifying you of the inspection will be sent out beforehand.

Community Rooms will be open during the hours that they were prior to the Covid restrictions. She pointed out that when the temperature is 85-degrees or higher, or if the dew point is 60% or higher, the Community Rooms will remain open twenty-four hours a day so residents will have a place to go to cool off and take advantage of the air-conditioning. Also beginning June 1st, resident services staff will be on site four days a week, but be aware it may be less than four days due to some staff members having multiple buildings to attend to. Should anyone need to speak with Tara Johnson, her phone number is **651-292-6072**. She then took questions from representatives.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit, stated the last couple of weeks have been quiet and things have mellowed out a bit after the Chauvin trial in Minneapolis. She also said that the catalytic converter thefts were down and that people have been doing an outstanding job of reporting anyone entering the buildings that have been trespassed.

All of the Officers-In-Residence (OIRs) have been given the green light to hold their weekly office hours once again. You should see a posting of their office hours in your lobbies very soon and each OIR will post their contact information if you need to get in touch with them. Sgt. Boyer also gave her direct cell phone number, which is **651-703-7141** if you need to get in touch with her. Managers also have that number. She then took questions.

If you need further information regarding ACOP, or have any questions regarding policing activities, contact Sgt. Boyer at **651-558-2305**, or email her at Any.Boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us. In addition, if you're in need of information regarding Covid-19, the Minnesota Department of Health has a Covid-19 hotline number which is **651-201-3920**. It's open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

OLD BUSINESS

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, said the June resident council meetings will wrap up the three-month election process and new officers will assume duties. Please remind candidates that they are required to show up in person to get voted in as a nominee. Election Judges will have newly elected officers fill out an *Officer Information Sheet* and sign any paperwork at that time. Assistant Managers will also be present at this meeting. Youa then took questions regarding the elections.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Summer Newsletter**. The current draft of the summer Newsletter has begun and sometime in June Youa will be sending out an email to everyone to let you know that a Newsletter Committee will be starting. If this is something you're interested in being a part of, get in touch with Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator. Questions were then answered regarding the summer Newsletter.
2. **Quarterly 2021 RPC Meeting**. Youa Thao has received a lot of calls from officers stating that since we are going on break in June, it was suggested that the June RPC Meeting be cancelled and have it rescheduled for May of next year. So instead of having the RPC Meeting, it was suggested that we gather to create a committee for people to participate in to suggest ideas that the PC could use to improve their meetings in September. Before calling for a Motion to cancel the RPC Meeting for June Youa took questions, after which a Motion was made by Al Bacon, Front, that the June RPC Meeting be cancelled. The Motion was seconded by Yasmine Aminou, Central, and the Motion carried.
3. **Vending Machine Contracts**. Be sure and invite your selected Vendor to your June resident council meeting to take questions from residents and also sign the new revised Vending Contract for the coming year. Copies of this signed Contract will be kept by the resident council and by the Manager. The Contract must then be scanned and emailed to Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, no later than June 30th to ensure that the vending machines can remain in your buildings. After any questions were answered regarding the Contract, a Motion was made by Richard Scaglione, Neill, that the amendment in the Vending Contract -- stating that the Vendor must provide a working change machine to the hi-rise they service -- be approved. Jason Bruce, Exchange, seconded and the Motion carried.
4. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Renewal**. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator read aloud the MOU in its entirety. This new MOU was approved by the PC on November 25, 2019 and it will be renewed every June and remain in effect for one year. Hi-rise Managers will read the MOU aloud to the resident council, after which one officer will sign as the council representative and another officer will sign as a witness. Councils should keep a signed copy, as should the Manager. The signed MOU should be scanned and emailed to Youa Thao no later than June 30th. Yasmine Aminou, Central, made a Motion to accept the renewal of the Presidents Council's MOU with the PHA of St. Paul. The Motion was seconded by Linda Dimmen, Cleveland, and was carried.
5. **Checks Voided After 90 Days**. At a recent PC Board Meeting this was discussed, as it had been in the past. Checks will be voided after 90 days if they are not deposited or cashed. Once a check is voided, an officer/volunteer will have the opportunity to submit a check request document to the council for a new check to be issued. After any questions were answered, a Motion was made by Richard Scaglione, Neill, that all checks be voided after 90 days. Jason Bruce, Exchange, seconded the Motion and it was carried.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

NOTE: Please cash or deposit all of your PC payout stipends by June 30th at the latest. We need to wrap up all the financial documents by that date in order to submit them to the Presidents Council financial books auditor on time.

6. **September Presidents Council Meeting:** A discussion was had whether or not to meet in person or continue meeting through Zoom when PC meetings resume in September. Each hi-rise Representative was asked how they would prefer to meet for PC meetings in the future. Since the majority chose to meet in person, Yasmine Aminou, Central, made a Motion that in-person PC meetings be held in September. It was seconded by Laurie Wrycza, Valley, and the Motion carried. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator will be looking into whether or not we can incorporate meeting in-person and via Zoom for those that choose to meet virtually. Further information regarding this will be forthcoming.
7. **Computer Peer Contract For Multi-Family Developments and Hi-Rises.** Diane Anastos, Resident Initiatives Program Coordinator, presented a Computer Peer Contract for Gy Chajili, which everyone should have received a copy of. This Contract was created indicating what his responsibilities would be as a Computer Peer and is entered into between City Wide and the Presidents Council. Gy will be paid to attend Computer Peer Meetings and will be paid \$15.00/hr. to do repairs and attend to any technical needs at the hi-rises and Family Sites. City Wide approved this Contract at their April meeting and Diane would now ask the PC to approve paying Gy to do the work as Computer Peer as requested. The floor was opened for questions. A Motion was made by Richard Scaglione, Neill, that the contract be approved to pay Gy Chajili to be a Computer Peer. Candy Pernel, Ravoux, seconded and the Motion carried.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Commissioner, said there was an application sent to the Federal Home Bank of Des Moines for grants to fund the elevator modernizations at Iowa, Edgerton and Ravoux Hi-Rises. There were also project based vouchers offering twenty new vouchers for VASH (for veterans). John also noted there were resolutions of recognition for two long-term PHA employees who will be retiring.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, updated us on education and training, etc. Although it feels as though the pandemic is becoming less of a threat and things are beginning to open up, it is still a very pandemic-oriented employment scenario in the community. As they open up they will try and do what they can to bring in-person meetings back to the PHA; however, that will take some time because a lot of the organizations and vendors they work with are still not clear what their procedures will be yet. But let your residents know that Beth is there to work individually with any residents who need any guidance, information or resources.

The *Twin Cities Rise* training will continue and has been going on for several months now. They've been very successful and the posters that are still hanging in the hi-rises are still viable. They have training coming up again in June, July, August and September for general updates on *My Road To Success* for customer service training and for maintenance. Currently there are more jobs than there are people available for them. The people are just not coming out.

SECTION 3 UPDATE *(continued)*

If you or someone you know is trying to find a job, obtain job skills, education, employment counseling; or if they just need more information on Section 3, they can contact Beth Pacunas at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org. She also now has a PHA phone number which is **651-252-5799** if you need assistance in the areas mentioned above. Also, keep an eye out for flyers and posters in your hi-rises as well. She then took questions.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director, wanted to congratulate the PC on how they have adapted and got the job done during the Covid-19 pandemic and how you all have supported each other, along with supporting Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator this past year.

She said they have finally scheduled every PHA property for a Covid Vaccination Clinic. Montreal Hi-Rise is in the middle of their Minnesota Department of Health Mobile Vaccine Clinic presently. The mobile vaccine bus will be at Edgerton from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on June 1st, Wilson Hi-Rise from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Front Hi-Rise beginning at 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. On June 8th the bus will be at Central Hi-Rise from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Seal Hi-Rise from 3:00 p.m. to 5 or 6:00 p.m. But as of June 8th we will have had an on-site Vaccine Clinic at every PHA property. In addition, return dates have already been scheduled for all of those Clinics. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Alicia Huckleby. The floor was then opened up for questions from the hi-rise Representatives.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, stated that it was exciting that they are now making their rounds to all of the sites for Vaccination Clinics.

Now that Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted as of June 1st, she will be meeting with community partners to check in to see when they will be ready to begin any on-site initiatives. She has had contact with the Wilder Foundation regarding their classes for *Chronic Pain* and *Living With Diabetes* and will keep us posted. She will also be in touch with the sites that will be hosting these classes this summer.

The door-to-door food box deliveries have been discontinued, but the Twin Cities Mobile Market (TCMM) has opened one of their market busses, but it is currently only servicing Mt. Airy and Ravoux Hi-Rises. Later this summer they hope to open a second bus and in time get the rest of the PHA sites up and running. But the TCMM is in operation and if you need more information you can go online to their website at: <https://thefoodgroupmn.org/twin-cities-mobile-market>. You don't have to live in a PHA building to use their services as they are available to everybody in the community.

Two other resources which benefit people living in the PHA hi-rises are *Internet Essentials* and the *Emergency Broadband Benefit*. For more information on Internet Essentials go online to: <https://www.internetessentials.com>. For more information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit, their online address is <https://www.xfinity.com/learn/internet-service/ebb>.

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, wanted to thank everyone who has contributed to the Presidents Council's continued operation, which included PHA staff, Peer Advisors, et al.

In the last audit of the Presidents Council's financial books for fiscal year July 2019 through June 2020, there was \$101.00 withheld because of an over-payment of \$1.00 for Bus Stipends and missing documentation of \$100.00 paid for QuickBook Peer stipends.

The second portion of PHA/RPC funds for hi-rise Beautification for all sixteen hi-rise councils will be requested this week. To ensure you get your check on time, please send Youa Thao and Melissa Pappas your resident council mailbox name or number. You should all receive a check for the second portion of the Beautification fund in approximately 2-3 weeks. **NOTE**: The check(s) **must** be deposited by the end of June at the very latest. Youa then opened the floor for questions.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson
PC/RPC Secretary
Peetiebird2@gmail.com

MEETING REMINDERS:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, September 17 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, June 24 @ 1:30 p.m.