

COMMUNITY BUILDING TEAM

MINUTES from Friday November 4, 2013

Jesse Thomas – Co-Chair

Secretary's Report – Mary Puente

Jesse passed around a contact list for all to update their information.

Minutes read by Mary. Minutes accepted as read. Motion to accept, Kathy Hicks
Second by Lisa Lee.

Newsletter Discussion

Ruby Steward recommended a 6 page newsletter, duplexed to 3 sheets. First letter will be an introduction of the newsletter. Ask each hi-rise for something about their building. Gary Laskowski shared Hamline's newsletter is large due in part to the large font size. Eileen Tittle suggested the distribution of the newsletter should be done via the PC's website as a word doc. This would help to increase the use of the web site. Ruby suggested we send 2 hard copies to each hi-rise.

Marlys Zerahn suggested one copy to post and each CB member decide the # of copies for their hi-rise. Mike from Wabasha, has no access to a computer. It was suggested that he ask other board members to assist him on using the computer.

Main Topics of the newsletter should be generic across the board such as:

- Main Meetings
- Calendar
- Poetry
- What's happening at each hi-rise such as events, classes ect.
- Changes to PHA policies notification
- What CB means to our communities
- Highlight other cultures for example how holidays are celebrated. Sample different foods from other countries
- RPC events

Karen Arnold will set up a newsletter committee meeting

Stew Pot Discussion

Committee members: Marlys Zerahn, Mary Puente, Roxanne Sands

Marlys suggested gathering all cultures together via pictures of individuals in the stew pot. The committee should get to know who they are, gather more information from them and have ethnic pot lucks. We could have our own festival of nations! The stew pot could include pictures of different ethnic cities. We should also include mute people and person's with other disabilities to capture their challenges in our world. At Hamline hi-rise each ethnic group puts on their own celebration for the hi-rise. Eileen - Bilingual software will assist all groups to be notified of upcoming celebrations. Currently the PC is working on purchasing a server to bring this tool to all hi-rises. Photo release permissions must be attained to use individual's pictures. Knowing how many ethnicities' can be done via RC's meetings. We could make it more individual per hi-rise.

Gary, from Hamline, suggested playing games to cut down the communication gap. Games are a language of their own.

Arts and Crafts Discussion

Committee members: Eric Clark, Ruby Steward, Karen Arnold

Create new craft items every 3 to 4 months. Crafts are being done at Exchange, Hamline and Ravoux. Crafts could be used for fundraising and benefit the CB team budget.

Other suggestions are:

- Persons interested could meet every 3 to 4 months to get in touch with one another in downtown and motivate folks to leave their hi-rise.
- Craft sale notices could be done via local businesses.
- Donate baby quilts to Gillette children's hospital.
- Create a presentation that STP PHA could share with other PHAs

Eileen - We need letters of permission to do up front selling ect. We need to make the items first. Include the CB report on RC agenda's each month. Team members should talk up our projects to motivate other residents to participate.

Open House discussion

We need more people interested in joining PC teams. Teams include Election Judges, RPC and Peer groups. Invite all hi-rise residents to attend and learn what each group does. Members of each group will man their table to answer questions and handout printed material.

Suggestions:

- Offer refreshments to help increase attendance
- Create an environment to mingle or chat with other hi-rise residents

Eileen – How to attract residents? Make this a portable event by bringing it to the hi-rise. Start at PC meeting – divide up all 16 hi-rises in groups of 4 and hold a open house in a hi-rise community room in the area .

Eric, from Ravoux, suggested providing snacks to attract participants.

Jesse - Hamline hi-rise is the assisted living and seniors' bldg. is a good place to have a presentation. Plus Hamline is known for getting along and playing games regardless of the language barriers. It starts with a thought and it's like a dream then reality happens give a feeling of accomplishment.

Time line for all committees.

November – Hold 1st meeting

December – Review what happened at the meeting

January/February – Open House, Arts and Crafts and Newsletter will begin.

Eileen will get picture release forms.

Jesse – How is the team feeling about our meeting?

Gail, Neill Hi-rise – Shared responsibility on the cb team.

Marlys, Dunedin – Is ready to get going

Gary, Hamline – Fab, good

Mike Baker, Wabasha – Good

Eric, Ravoux – It takes more than one to make this happen

Florence, Ravoux – Feels good

Lisa, Wilson – Open House at each hi-rise would be best

Ruby, Exchange – Good, don't forget to share with your hi-rise via your resident council meeting and ask for feedback.

Jesse - This year's team is 75% more energetic and maintains a positive attitude.

We want more togetherness, participation, breakdown language barriers.

***To have our agenda ready for the next meeting, contact Jesse with an update from each committee. ***Jesse can be reached at 651-292-6058, if no answer please leave a message or email Jesse at pctreasurer@stphapresidentscouncil.org

Gary – We should be more like children. Children can play together regardless.

Eileen – Some improvements: We had some racially based issues last year. This year is over 75% better than a year ago. Patti Hammel would be thrilled with what's happening today. Community building was Patti's idea to begin with.

Next meeting: December 6, 2013 9:30 am CAO