Computer Team
11/20/14

Attendees: Key Carelli, Melissa Pappas, Eileen Tittle, Beth Pacunas, Aaron Smothers, Yasmine Aminou, Eva Hilton, Mary Puente, Margaret Gilbert, Jerry Munsch, G. Woldeghebriel, Gerard Forest, Josh Dahn

Welcome to new members:
New computer admins were welcomed to the team.
Computer issues mentioned:
Missing or failed hard drive at Front
Possible video card fail at Montreal. Montreal also has a problem with non residents using the computers.
During the day non residents using the computers should be reported to management.
Timing software might help this problem. The board needs to approve of that though. (The Montreal board has not approved of this yet.)
Central has issues with residents messing up the computer chairs and bringing food and drinks by the computers.

Computer books:
The computer administrator books are finally done. Some tutorials are missing though.
Missing tutorials:
Facebook
Windows 8
Brother Printer
Linux except for the what is Linux tutorial
They should not be left out in the community room because of the possibility of them being taken. Books can be checked out from the computer admin if a resident would like to see it. You also could make copies of tutorials if you want.
A sign could be made letting residents know that the book is available for check out.

Hi-Rise Wi-Fi project:

Aaron Smothers talked about the plan of action for this project.

The purpose of the project is to increase the wi-fi strength and range on the first floor and possibly the second floor.

Modem and router options were discussed. Important criteria in choosing a router are the number of devices that can connect to it and ease of use as a child device. If too few devices are supported then the signal will be poor with heavy use.

We need to select routers now so two devices can be purchased as test units.

Devices purchased will be current and chosen to be "future proof" (This means they should be good for three years at least.)

Three possible routers were put up for consideration. Prices range from $180 to $270. The routers hold different numbers of devices. Their ranges are also different. The most expensive router, the Asus AC2400 has the best specs. It is a very new product so it hasn't been tested much yet.

Getting an enclosure for the routers was discussed. This would prevent theft. The enclosure wouldn't affect signal quality or strength.

The Netgear Nighthawk AC1900 is a good router option. That router is already in use at the family sites and at Montreal hi-rise.

We need to decide which router to go with.

Computer options were then discussed.

Be aware that lower end computers like the Dell Inspiron can't really be upgraded much. They are fine for home users who aren't interested in upgrading anything.

The first computer purchased would be for the Presidents Council office. The Acer Aspire sounds like a good option. It is upgradeable and has good specs.

Printer toner was discussed. Hi-rises are purchasing toner a whole lot. Purchasing the high yield TN-450 cartridge was suggested. That cartridge should print 2600 pages.

Toner can be purchased online at a good price. eprintersolution.com and 4inkjets.com have good prices. They also take checks. You also can get toner cheaply at amazon.com. Someone will have to pay with a credit card and be reimbursed if you use that option.

Brother printing tutorial: http://www.stphapresidentscouncil.org/brother.pdf

Computer Class opportunities:
There are opportunities to have various kinds of computer trainings. A number of trainers have been contracted through Section 3 funding. Possibilities include things like computer basics, taking care of your computer, office software, etc.
Taking care of your computer would include things like using antivirus and anti-malware software, updating software, other maintenance.
There is a workplace essentials scholarship coming up. People chosen for this would receive intensive training in computer skills and job skills. Registration for this ends November 21st.
Beth will make up a survey to find out what types of classes would be wanted.
There is a trainer who will teach a class in Somali. Another trainer will do Northstar certification training.
Computer basics classes are definitely needed.

Technology grant:
There is $20,000 to purchase computer items.
This time items will be purchased in bulk and delivered to buildings. Hi-rises will not be shopping on their own.
Let Eileen know what your hi-rise wants.
Getting windows 8 software was suggested. Tech soup has licenses at a good price.
PCs For People has Office for a good price.