

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

David Owens, Mt. Airy, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on October 24, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., after which he asked that introductions be made.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, asked that everyone look over the Minutes from the October meeting and if corrections are needed, bring them to his attention at our next meeting. One correction was made in the September Minutes to correct the spelling of Leona Eishen, Wilson. *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, made a Motion to accept the October Minutes as they stand, along with the amended September Minutes. It was seconded by *David Owens*, Mt. Airy and the Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of September. The Register balance is forty-six thousand, eight hundred ten dollars and thirty-four cents (\$46,810.34). The Ending Balance is forty-six thousand, five hundred seventy-five dollars and thirty-four cents (46,575.34). *John Cardoza*, Cleveland, made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by *Paula Gamblain*, Ravoux. The Motion was carried and the Report will be filed for audit.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mary Puente, Commissioner, Front, stated that some new business was discussed regarding the Congregate Housing Services between January, 2017 thru December 2017. It was approved and will continue at the five hi-rises that offer CHSP services. She also said there will be miscellaneous concrete work being done at various PHA sites, along with the approved Montreal stairwell heating renovation.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Tim Angaran, Assistant Maintenance Director, stated hi-rises should be seeing members of Maintenance staff come to talk about *Capital Fund Projects* for the coming year. He spoke about Ravoux Hi-Rise and the extensive plumbing overhaul that's going on there. Ravoux is the first project, but they'll be slowly making their way to all the hi-rises. He also stated National elections are coming up and listed the hi-rises that will have voting on the premises. Tim then took questions.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, stated there is a new policy that becomes effective in April, regarding “over income”. Several residents have received notices in the mail regarding this. Any residents in the hi-rises who are affected will be receiving a notice. She then took questions.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Keith Draz, Safety & Security Coordinator, had three discussion items. The first was the renting out of Community Rooms and who will be responsible for guests coming through the front door. Using an object to prop the door open is not acceptable. The second item was regarding elections and the problems that could occur – especially this year – in the upcoming General Elections. He spoke about people who break the election rules and offered a copy of the *Polling Place Rules* to anybody who would like them. *Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, stated if any candidates want to come to your hi-rise to campaign, they should be referred to her. Lastly, Keith talked about Halloween. He said it was also a time for adult parties, so residents should expect to see people who are in costumes. He said he’s assigned two additional off-duty police officers to go through the buildings at night to ensure nobody’s having loud parties. As always, if you have any problems or concerns about safety in or around your hi-rise, give him a call at 651-558-2305. If he’s not available, leave a message; he returns all calls.

GUEST SPEAKER

Karyssa Jackson, Metro Transit (MTC), came to talk about the *Transit Assistance Program* that was rolled out on October 20, 2016. They are doing a six-month Pilot Program where they will have \$1.00 ride cards available for certified low-income residents. Residents who qualify will be given a Go Card that will be loaded with \$5.00 (five rides) and which can be reloaded when empty with \$5.00 or more, which will allow residents to ride for \$1.00 through April 20, 2017. They are currently in the process of signing people up at the downtown St. Paul Metro Transit Store and also the store in Minneapolis. She handed out a list of other sign-up spots throughout the cities. Some forms of certification would be a rent statement, EBT card, etc. which show low-income eligibility.

OLD BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator began by asking which hi-rises were election voting sites. The hi-rises are Ravoux, Front, Hamline, Montreal, Wilson, Seal, Edgerton, Mt. Airy and Iowa. Information was also given about how to setup the election rooms. She also said if there are any problems in the building regarding campaigning or the election, they should be brought to the attention of an Election Judge. She then went on to talk about Stipends. She stated that at the last Presidents Council meeting, it was approved to update the Stipend Form. A Motion was made by John Cardoza, Cleveland, to approve the updated Stipend Form. It was seconded by Jim Lovold, Hamline, and the Motion was carried. Julia next went on to the PC Budget. *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, made a Motion to accept the Budget. *Leona Eishen*, Wilson, seconded the Motion and it was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

At last month's meeting, the Executive Board of the Presidents Council temporarily approved a Treasurer and a Secretary. Now the positions must be permanently approved. Julia then read the qualifications for the position of Secretary. Melanie Fox, Montreal, made a Motion to nominate Bob Knutson for the position of Secretary for the upcoming year. It was seconded by Valerie Rockett, Valley Hi-Rise. The Motion was carried. Two qualified people have nominated themselves for Treasurer. Julia read the qualifications for the position of Treasurer. Melissa Pappas, Seal, the current PC/RPC Treasurer, was one of the nominees. The other nominee is Jesse Thomas, Seal, who is a former PC/RPC Treasurer. Melissa Pappas, Seal, is presently an officer for her Resident Council. At the last meeting of the Executive Board, a Motion was made to appoint Melissa Pappas, Seal, as the PC/RPC Treasurer and the Motion was carried. At today's meeting, a Motion was made by Melanie Fox, Montreal, to appoint Melissa Pappas, Seal, as PC/RPC Treasurer, which was seconded by Ed Lane, Central. The Motion was carried. Julia Hupperts then swore Bob Knutson, Ravoux, and Melissa Pappas, Seal, into office.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, PHA Resident Initiatives Director, said she has an update on *Comcast Cable Connect Home Program* that was explained at the Presidents Council at last month's meeting by Comcast Representative, Martin Ludden. This is a federal program that Comcast has been tasked with; enrolling low-income households where residents would pay slightly under \$10.00 a month for cable and Internet, which would include all taxes and fees. Residents would then have the opportunity to purchase a refurbished laptop for \$150.00. He will work through Julia Hupperts of the Presidents Council Office to set up meetings for him to provide further information. We are getting some flyers from Martin and are putting together a letter that will be attached to those flyers, and we are waiting to hear from him so informational sessions can be setup at the hi-rises. She then took questions.

ROSS TEAM

Ed Petsche, ROSS Employment & Educational Coordinator, said since the last meeting, they've had a *Government Career Fair* that was scheduled at Mt. Airy Community Center that went very well. There were 70 people in attendance, along with 15 tables with 13 government agencies there. What they're looking to do is continue having Job Fairs to help residents who are looking for employment, volunteer opportunities or continuing education job skills training. If there are any people you know of, who are looking for a job, or looking to volunteer, let Ed or Val of the ROSS Team know.

COMPUTER UPDATE

Aaron Smothers, IT Digital Literacy Coordinator, said this week he's trying to get ahold of a copy of all hi-rise Comcast bills. So far he's only received one from Iowa, but he'll try and make it out to all the other sites to collect a copy of their bills. He'll be contacting hi-rise Resident Councils soon. He said computer classes will officially be starting October 31st, with the first class held at Dunedin Community Center and the Hi-Rise, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., followed by Central, Mt. Airy hi-rise and Community Center, and then Cleveland. Throughout the year Aaron will be adding posters to the sites.

COMPUTER UPDATE (continued)

Classes are for basic computer and Microsoft Office skills. He's working on trying to get a Computer Administrator for those sites that don't have one. He also spoke about maintaining the computers.

SHIP GRANT UPDATES

Betsy Christensen, SHIP Coordinator, said last week that they wrapped up the *Walk With A Doc* events for the 2016 season. She passed around some photos that were taken of each of the events so you can see who was there and how it went. She stated they had 118 people attending over seven events. She's also starting to gather an "interest list" to see what hi-rises would like to host a community walking event next year, or the year after. As it stands now, they've been hosting events starting in May through October, with one event each month. She then passed the list around, and said if anyone's interested, put your name and the name of your hi-rise down and she'll reach out to you early next year when they put together a schedule. She also spoke about the *Nice Ride Bike Program*. They had a total of 85 residents participate in that event. The bike programs will start up in April or May of next year. She also stated they had applied for the *Allina Charitable Contributions Grant*, and it was awarded to them. She said they had funding to be used to host exercise classes at the hi-rises, funding for low impact exercise videos and light hand weights for exercise rooms. She also spoke about *Everyone Counts With Diabetes*, a six-week workshop

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator / Youth Literacy, wanted to remind everyone what she does for the PHA. She provides job training and education that will lead to better and more employment, so she organizes partnerships in the community for education classes. She said she'll be coming to the meetings to remind residents of the different kinds of programs they either want to bring, or have scheduled. She stated they will be doing a Job Skills Readiness Course as well.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said she was happy to see good participation in the *Walk With A Doc Program*. She also had a couple of comments. She gave a reminder that the PHA management offices are closed on November 11th (Veteran's Day) & the 24th & 25th (Thanksgiving). She also spoke about updating the By-Laws for the Presidents Council, which is contained in the Resident Council Guides. Julia reminded everyone about the Vendor Rep Training that's at 12:30 today. She also encouraged anyone who's interested in writing an article, or has a suggestion for an article in the *Community Insider*, to feel free to let them know. The *Community Insider* is a resident driven and resident written newsletter, and they would like more input. She went on to remind everyone that all hi-rises have a QuickBooks Peer that comes and works with your Resident Council and works primarily with your Treasurer. QuickBooks Peers basically do a mini-audit of your books each month. Please make sure there is paper available when they visit. She spoke about Resident Council Budgets and she also passed out a sheet of *Polling Place Rules*.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Submitted by:



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Meeting Reminders:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, November 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Executive Committee: November 18, 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Building: November 4, 9:30 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Computer Team: November 16, 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.

Presidents Council Website:

www.stphapresidentscouncil.org