

Presidents Council Minutes

11/24/14

Take back to your councils:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by Mary Peterson from Wilson hi-rise. Hi-rise representatives, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Keith Draz, Tim Angaran, BettyLou Authier, Anne Tranvik, Betsy Christianson, Charisse Brown, Alicia Huckleby, Beth Pacunas, Aaron Smothers, Pa Shasky

Secretary's Report

The minutes from last month had been sent out. PC Secretary Melissa Pappas called for a motion to accept them. Linda Dimmen Made a motion t accept the minutes as sent out. Rick Palmer Seconded. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

PC Treasurer Jesse Thomas gave the financial report for October The budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was also discussed. A question was asked about paying for interpreters. The Presidents Council does have funds for that. You should try to find someone in your hi-rise to interpret before requesting an outside interpreter. A motion was made by Linda Dimmen to accept the budget as written. Cathy Hicks seconded. Motion carried.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

Interim Manager, Tim Angaran spoke. Due to the warm temperatures over the weekend the lot plowing and clearing has been cancelled. Parking lots will be sanded and salted.

Issues:

A question was raised about vacuuming out the heat vents in the apartments. It isn't clear if that is the resident's responsibility or if maintenance is supposed to do it. Tim will look into that.

A question was asked about who is responsible for cleaning up garbage left around the chutes. It is really the residents' responsibility to get garbage in the chute.

Who is responsible for replacing the outdoor light at Seal and blind slats there was asked about. The blind replacement is being looked into and should be taken care of in the next couple months. The seal light is the resident council's responsibility.

There are issues with the air conditioning being on still at Central.

Pet safe salt was asked about. Magnesium chloride is what is used now.

That is reasonably safe. Pet owners should watch their pets when they are outside and wipe their paws when they come in.

Proposals for new laundry machines are being looked at. Nothing has been decided as of yet. Cost for a load of wash will not change.

Hopefully the new contract will be awarded in December and new machines will go in in January.

PHA Report

Principal Manager, Charisse Brown gave the report.

A reminder was given to consider renters insurance. The importance of that was stressed.

In a couple months you will no longer be able to pay your rent in person at CAO. More information about this will be forthcoming. The grace period will still be ten days. The effective date is still to be determined.

Direct debit was asked about. That is not an option at this time. (It is being looked into but it likely won't happen for some time.)

There will be a permanent manager at Iowa in the next couple months.

Safety and Security Report

Keith Draz spoke.

Security cameras have been looked at. Current cameras have been checked to be sure they are functioning and that they are placed correctly.

Changes to existing cameras will be made before new cameras are purchased.

Keith will be bringing a schedule of winter safety presentations to December Council meetings. Most presentations will be in January. Except for Exchange they will not be on the same night as a Resident Council meeting.

Wi-Fi Project

Aaron Smothers gave an update on this project.

The aim of the project is to improve wi-fi coverage on the first floor of all the hi-rises. New routers will be purchased. All hi-rises will have the same equipment. The routers and modems will be mounted in locations that will maximize signal strength and range. (The routers will be mounted high with the antennas da ing in different directions.) Maintenance will be involved in the installation of equipment and choosing placement. There is an option to get a lock box to put the router in. This will prevent theft if that is a concern. The lock box is not mandatory. The box is designed for wi-fi equipment and does not affect signal strength.

Some hi-rises might have more than one router. This depends on the number of devices that need to connect and the size and type of the space. (Larger spaces and buildings made of stucco need more routers than a smaller, open space would.)

Wi-Fi can reach the second floor if needed. Let Aaron know if your building has offices on the second floor.

The schedule for installation has not been drawn up yet. Test routers will be purchased in the next couple weeks.

Aaron's email address is aaronwifi@gmx.com.

A reminder was given that other computer problems should be reported to the help desk and not to Aaron. He is just working on the wi-fi project.

Community Building

Mary Puente spoke about the Stew Pot Project. Basically the project is a visual representation of the different nationalities that live in the hi-rises. You can use pictures, national flags, etc. If you use pictures you should be sure to let the individuals know that they will just be used for this project and nothing else. Photo releases are not needed. Pictures, flags, other things will be put on a poster that will be displayed in your community room. Who will be providing poster supplies has not been determined yet. You should get a committee together to work on this. (The Community Builder should be involved if you have one.)

Training Opportunities

Beth Pacunas spoke about possible training opportunities that are available.

There are various types of computer training available. This will be more formal than the classes that were offered previously.

The Loft Literacy center will be providing SAT/ACT Prep for high school students. There are also individual instructors that can come in. There is one who can teach basic computer skills in Somali.

Classes are skewed towards education and job training because of Section 3 Grant requirements.

An interest survey was handed out. We want to know what residents would like to learn. Look at the survey and give Beth your feedback on it. Don't distribute it at this time.

Basic math and algebra classes were suggested. It seems brush up in that would be helpful for a lot of people.

English as a second language was also suggested.

Having online classes was mentioned. That could be looked into.

Resident Initiatives Report

Alicia Huckleby spoke. She introduced Beth Pacunas as the new Section 3 coordinator. She was formerly one of the Ross Grant service coordinators. She will be with the project until the end of the fiscal year.

A Mobile Market update was given. The mobile markets will be going to Valley and Iowa hi-rises and Mt. Airy Homes.

We are waiting on more funding for SHIP Grant activities. This funding will help expand some of these things.

The next SHIP agreement (SHIP 4) will be a five year plan.

There will be a Cooking Matters class at Dunedin. It is available to families and single individuals.

SHIP Grant Report

Anne Tranvik, Betsy Christiansen, and Pa Shasky spoke.

There will be a bike giveaway at the family sites.

Bike racks will be available in the spring. Bike fixing stations with tools are being looked into. There is the possibility of having bike maintenance and bike skills classes.

There is funding for walking clubs. A walking event could be part of summer picnic events.

There will be more NiceRide tours in the summer. They are looking into expanding to sites that aren't super close to bike stations.

Anne Tranvik talked about healthy eating activities. Cooking Matters was mentioned. This program teaches about how to choose healthy foods and cook healthy meals. There are also grocery store tours. These teach how to choose healthy food items when shopping and how to stretch your grocery dollars. Transportation is provided and you get some free groceries.

Tours are usually for groups of five people.

Healthy vending survey results were handed out.

There will be vendor rep training on December 10th. After the training we will discuss how healthy vending is moving forward in 2015.

Old Business

Smoking in front of hi-rises: hi-rise response to this was discussed.

Ps number of hi-rises wanted smoking to not be allowed right in front of the buildings. A few others hadn't brought it up yet.

Hi-rises that want to restrict smoking need to have discussion about that on the agenda for the December Resident Council meeting. The change will be voted on in January.

This is being done to give everyone who wants to have a say in this the chance to do so.

It would be a good idea to start the new policy 30 days after it is voted in.

Space use fees:

Changing the fee is not mandatory. Changing the fee needs to be approved today.

Jessica Reese made a motion to allow hi-rises to raise the space use fee if they wish. Lorraine Waters seconded. Motion carried.

Remember that the rules are the same for everyone. (That means no exceptions on things like time limit for certain people.) Community room doors may not be locked.

Councils cannot sponsor religious events. Residents can reserve the room for such things though.

There is no charge for trainings and memorials for residents who have died.

Returning fees was asked about. Damage deposits are kept if there is damage or a mess left. (If it is a minor thing the funds wouldn't be kept.) Sales parties like Avon and Shaklee are allowed. They must be by invitation only though.

New Business

There will be a potluck after the December meeting. That meeting will be on the first floor.

There are four recycling bins left if any hi-rise needs them. Cleveland and Central are interested.

Resident Council Coordinator

The computer grant funds were discussed. We still need to know how to spend those funds. Let Eileen know what your hi-rise wants.

The cold weather rule was discussed. Remember that meetings will be cancelled if the temperature is -1 or there is a -20 windchill at 7:00AM on meeting days.

The peer team is together again and working on a number of projects.

Meeting adjourned at 11:57AM

Next meeting: December 22nd

**Community Building: December 5th,
9:30AM**

RPC Meeting: December 12th, 9:30AM

**Executive Board: December 12th,
11:00AM**

Peer Team: December 19th, 9:30AM