

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

November 23, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Cathy Hicks, Valley Hi-Rise, called the Presidents Council to order on November 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. and proceeded with introductions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux Hi-Rise, asked all attending representatives to look over the Minutes from the last meeting, and if there are any errors, bring them to his attention and the Minutes will be corrected. Lisa Lee made a Motion to accept the Minutes as they stand, which was seconded by Connie Lydon. The Motion was carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal Hi-Rise, presented the Treasurer's Report.

1. October's Treasurer's Report.
2. Vote on Budget.

The current balance is twenty four thousand five hundred twenty two dollars and forty-three cents. (\$24,522.43). Dustin Sisson made a Motion to Accept the Budget, which was seconded by Melanie Fox, and the Motion was carried. The report will be filed for audit.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

Jon Gutzmann, Executive Director of the PHA, made an announcement about a notice we got from U.S. Housing & Urban Development (HUD), who funds us and regulates us. HUD may issue a Rule in the next eighteen months which says we cannot have smoking in our apartments. They are giving us a sixty (60) day notice to comment on what they call a Proposed Rule, which will say that the Public Housing Agencies across the country have to ban smoking in all apartments. A big concern is how something like that would be enforced if it's put into place as a part of Policy. Much discussion will be had at all the Hi-Rise Councils in the next month.

SPECIAL SPEAKERS *(continued)*

Alesia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, handed out copies of a Board Report that they will be taking to the PHA Board Wednesday, November 25th. Attached to that is a Summary from a National Association of Housing & Redevelopment official, who published an informative summary on the proposed Rule. She asked the representatives to take this information back to their Resident Councils, and make sure the topic of “*HUD’s Proposed Smoke Free Rule*” is put on their Agendas for their upcoming meetings; primarily because of our work with St. Paul Ramsey County Health & SHIP. She also mentioned that smoking cessation is one of the subjects SHIP focuses on, in addition to nutrition and physical activity. People who want to quit smoking would have access to smoking cessation resources.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & *Yen Tran*, Green Initiatives Technician, provided a video featuring some of the hi-rises and their gardens, which were part of the Community Master Garden Project. She also talked about the many garden beds that were distributed to some of the buildings. She handed out flyers and spoke about applying for a grant that would help to reduce waste while promoting recycling. She will be at Resident Council meetings in the future to explain more.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Board of Commissioner, *Mary Puente*, Front Hi-Rise, said she didn’t have a report today because the Board hasn’t met yet. They’ll be meeting Wednesday and she’ll catch us up at our next meeting in December.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Tim Angaran, Maintenance Interim Manager, turned the report over to *Dave Lang*, Maintenance Contracts Manager, who talked about the Capital Funds Program and how it works. Each year they’re given a grant to make improvements to the buildings, and depending on the amount of the grant, it has to be spread out between all the buildings. Tim then took questions regarding maintenance problems at various hi-rises.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Because of the approaching holidays, Keith thought it appropriate to address the question of whether or not panhandling was against the law, and he went on to explain when it is illegal and when it is not. He also said it would be good for him to know when your hi-rises will be having their holiday celebration parties – the dates and times. He would like to arrange for an ACOP officer to stop by, and also have the Officer-In-Residence attend, to get more acquainted. Keith would like that information as soon as possible. Call him at his number below. He also spoke about their annual get together with residents. If you have any concerns, give him a call at **651-558-2305**. He returns all calls.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Nina Semmelroth, Housing Manager, sitting in for Charisse Brown, wanted to offer a few reminders. One was about keeping your windows closed in the wintertime, and if you know of someone who isn't home, who has a window open, tell someone about it before the pipes freeze. She also talked about cars being towed in the winter months and how notices to remove cars would be forty-eight hours to seventy two hours prior to the plow. She stressed that if you're going to be away, be sure and have someone available who can be responsible for your car.

OLD BUSINESS

Challenge Grant Update: *Connie Lydon*, Neill Hi-Rise, said the Challenge Grant Committee met to toss around suggestions and ideas of how best to use the \$25,000.00 that Jon Gutzmann would like to put in his budget, for all hi-rises to benefit from. The long list was whittled down to the three most popular ideas. They were: *interpreters*, *exercise equipment* and *education*. A Motion was made by Melanie Fox to submit a proposal to the PHA for the Challenge Grant funds. It was seconded by Karen Arnold, and passed by a majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Builder Update: *Cheryl Eastwold*, read “*What Does Community Building Mean To You*” which made some very good and helpful points. She also stated that each hi-rise should have a Community Builder, and that Julia Hupperts will be visiting every Council in the coming months.

ROSS TEAM

AZ Jones, Program Coordinator, handed out some highlights from October. Fifteen residents have gained employment since July. He will be sending out notifications frequently to let people know about available opportunities.

Aaron Smothers, IT Coordinator, Digital Literacy & Technology, handed out a flyer that contained hi-rise visit dates. He also gave an update on computers and computer classes. He will be visiting sites on specific days and times and will deal with any computer issues, in addition to using his time there to teach an impromptu computer lesson.

SHIP GRANT UPDATES

Ann Tranvik, Public Health Nurse. It's been two years and Ann gave a brief history of the SHIP Grant and how far it's come. What they would like to do is check in during this year with the hi-rises and the family sites, starting with the Board leadership, and find out how it's going. Is SHIP working with your residents needs to meet your health goals and create a healthy environment? That's what SHIP is for. They'd like to begin the conversation with those sites to see if they would be willing to take some time to sit with Betsy and Ann, to have some discussion about where we're going with creating a healthy environment that works for you, and how it lines up with what they're trying to do with SHIP.

Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Coordinator, said now that the weather is getting cold, all of the biking and walking activities are slowing down. It would be beneficial to have a discussion about how we can stay feeling well during the wintertime. She's always open to ideas and is looking forward to a discussion about it. She said they're working with the U. of M. Extension, or SNAP Education Classes; to set up a class series at one of the hi-rises this winter.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, congratulated everyone on having a very productive meeting, along with some good information to bring back to your hi-rises regarding the *No Smoking Rule*. She reminded everyone about the PC Council's Cold Weather Rule which everyone received a copy of. She also gave out a sign that needs to be posted beside all of your hi-rise exercise equipment. Representatives were also reminded that she needs a copy of their Vendor Contracts.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted. Karen Arnold made a Motion that the meeting be adjourned, which was seconded by Jim Lovold. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by:



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Upcoming Meeting Reminders:

Presidents Council Meeting: Monday, December 28, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Computer Team: December 17, 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.

Insider Newsletter: December 4, 11:00 a.m.

Presidents Council Website:

www.stphapresidentscouncil.org