

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Jason Bruce, Exchange, Chairperson, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and took a roll call of hi-rise Representatives present, along with PHA staff members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aado Perandi, PC/RPC Secretary, Wabasha, stated you can always find a copy of the Minutes posted on the PC website. He also asked Representatives to instruct their resident council Secretaries to print a copy of the PC Minutes and post them along with the Minutes from their resident council meetings. Dennis Loudon, Edgerton, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Richard Scaglione, Neill, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Sean Hurdle, Community Engagement Director of the Twin Cities Mobile Market (TCMM) reports that TCMM is a mobile market on a bus that brings fresh produce, groceries, and pantry staples monthly to a number of the PHA high-rises. He would like to find out how they can better serve us and to engage our help in letting our residents know about their services along with when and where they would be at each site. He can be contacted at 763-450-3876 or by email at shurdle@thefoodgroupmn.org. The floor was then opened for questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for October.

For October the cleared balance is seventy-four thousand, seven hundred ninety nine dollars and seventy-eight cents (\$74,799.78). The ending balance is seventy-three thousand, nine hundred ninety-five dollars and twenty-nine cents (\$73,995.29). The report will be filed for audit. Melissa then took questions.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager / Maintenance Contracts, gave an update. Maintenance staff is busy budgeting, planning, and getting out contract and bid documents.

Current projects include: The Front plumbing project is continuing into next year; There will be some cellular antenna work at Ravoux and Iowa high-rises which will require the use of a crane to move some equipment to and/or from the roof; Maintenance will be working on the Valley high-rise fire alarm panel late November into December which may involve some intermittent testing of the system; Life-safety equipment testing will continue at all of the high-rise sites.

Ramsey County was out at the Montreal High-Rise Resident Council meeting earlier this month and gave a quick presentation and update on the Lexington Avenue work and the Elway extension that will be running along the west side of the property at Montreal. The PHA will wait until the work on the roundabout and the work near Montreal are complete before making any changes or adjustments needed on PHA's site.

Maintenance is working on their 2023 budget which will be presented to the board next year. This will include all of the capital and operating construction projects, and also includes input from the residents during the September Resident Council meetings.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT *(continued)*

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director, had a few things to say during these fall months.

1. Mike thanked all the residents at Edgerton, Wilson and Iowa, the REAC inspection there a couple of weeks ago was pretty good. An upcoming REAC inspection will be on December 6th for the Cleveland, Montreal and Dunedin high-rises. Be on the lookout for notices.
2. Mike reminded us that if we see any issues that need addressing we should call in a work order. The work order line is open from 8:00 am till 4:30 pm. Issues you should be calling in include the need for pest control or having no heat in unit.
3. Life safety inspections are just about done. Seal, Cleveland, Wabasha and a few other buildings are left to do. Notices will be posted.
4. Preventative maintenance inspections will be continuing, currently they are over 80 percent done, so they should be finishing soon.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise representatives.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Tara Johnson, Resident Services Senior Manager, reported that if we have any suggestions for additional security cameras we should contact our Assistant Manager. Camera requests are submitted to the IT department and cameras are assigned to locations that are determined to be most needed and effective to the PHA as a whole.

Union Gospel Mission (UGM) will be coming to the high-rises this Thursday to serve Thanksgiving Day meals. The meals will be served in the Community Room, you can pick it up and take it to your unit. There will be no congregate dining this year and there will be no door to door service. If not done yet, please let your assistant manager know who the contact person is to let the UGM people in with the meals. Tara wished us all a nice holiday week. She then took questions from representatives.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit, stated that ACOP Unit is working with parking enforcement officers to help with the parking issues that are happening in the high-rise and family sites so that everyone that needs a parking space is able to get one.

Montreal and Exchange has had quite a few unauthorized people gaining access into their buildings. This can be an issue as people are looking for a warm place to stay. Please call if you see any unauthorized people in your building, which might include people in the lobby for more than half an hour or might include people not attached with a resident. The non-emergency number 651-291-1111. Do not confront these individuals yourself.

There are a couple of different apartments both in Seal and in Hamline that people are concerned about a lot of foot traffic and a lot of vehicle traffic in the parking lot. The Narcotics unit and the Officer in Residence (OIR) are looking into this.

There can also be people with medical issues or crises that need help, sometimes reaching out to your assistant manager can be helpful.

Sgt. Amy can be reached at amy.boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us or at her cell phone 651-703-7141. She then took questions.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RPC/PHA Fund. Youa Thao informed the Resident Councils that the first portion of the RPC/PHA Fund will be released to the Resident Councils soon. To qualify, the Resident Council's September and October Minute Reports must show that the budget was read at one meeting and posted for thirty days. The following minute report must show that the budget was approved at the council meeting. The council must also complete and pass the financial audits for September and October. When the Resident Council receives their RPC/PHA Fund check they should make a copy of the check for their council's records as some banks do not provide copies of checks on bank statements.
2. Peer Adviser & Computer Peer Stipend. There was discussion of changing the Peer Adviser & Computer Peer Stipend from \$20 per hour + mileage reimbursement to \$20 per hour with no additional mileage reimbursement. After much discussion, the councils voted to keep the stipend at \$20 per hour + mileage reimbursement.
3. Language interpreter. Youa Thao informed the Resident Councils that language interpretation can encourage a more diverse participation rate in council activities and meetings. The councils need to use their own council funds to pay for language interpretation. Councils can then request a reimbursement of up to \$100 with documentation and receipts from the RPC. To be reimbursed, the interpretations provided must be provided to all at the meetings.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Commissioner, reported that the Board of Commissioners at their last meeting voted to raise the market rate for Section 8 property.

John reported that there is \$1.5 million in rent that has not been paid because of Covid-19. As of November 16, there have been payments of \$1,127,897 to help pay rent. If you know of any neighbors or anyone that need help ask them to look into the COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance program for help.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, updated us on education and training, etc. Beth wished us all a happy Thanksgiving. There are micro-grants available for issues related to employment and education. There is a lot of work available, if anyone is looking for anything specific or looking for anything with the PHA. For gaining work with the PHA, you should always check the PHA website, there are many positions available internally, externally and sometimes even specifically for residents.

If we or anybody we know needs help with employment, education or training please remember to check with Beth, who is doing a lot of case management in these areas. Beth can be contacted at 651-252-5799. She then took questions.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director, was not able to make this meeting. Betsy Christensen relayed the following message from Alicia Huckleby.

Alicia Huckleby thanked us all for the work and leadership that we are doing in our building. She wants to encourage us all to be a little more kind throughout the day and encourage our neighbors and our friends to be as well and to have respect for each other in our roles.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, reported that the Wilder Foundation *Living Well with Chronic Pain* class which started this October ended last week.

HIP is planning to host a couple of Wilder Foundation *Living Well with Diabetes* classes, looking to start in mid January. A telephone class option and a virtual class option are being planned. Fliers will be distributed when further information known. This six week course is mainly focused on type 2 diabetes, and is for anyone diagnosed with pre-diabetes, living with diabetes or is a caretaker for someone with diabetes. A book containing good resources is included with the class.

HIP is also planning to host a six week Garden Mentor program which is in partnership with the University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardeners and the Ramsey County Master Gardeners. This class is intended for residents who garden at their building or garden elsewhere and want to be a support for the residents in their building. The class will begin early March. The plan is to offer a hybrid version with three class sessions via Zoom and three class sessions in person, which is tentatively planned to be on six Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays in the early afternoon. More information will be coming out soon for the Garden Mentor program.

This winter HIP will be doing their Winter of Gratitude initiative - thank you cards have been distributed to all of the assistant housing managers so the cards should be available soon. Residents can use them to thank somebody.

She reminded everyone that being kind to others, can make us feel good, can lower our blood pressure, can be better for our heart, can be better for our health and can be better for our wellbeing. Also, people who witness acts of kindness can experience these same benefits.

Betsy ended with a quote from the author and poet Maya Angelou, "I've learned the people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." So take this with you in your roles as leaders of your building. I wish you all a happy holiday season.

Betsy Christensen can be contacted at 651-298-4030 or at betsy.christensen@stpha.org. She then took questions.

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reported that the Newsletter Team is recruiting for the Fall Newsletter. The Newsletter team will be sending out emails, please reply if you are interested in joining the newsletter team. We also encourage residents to send in stories to our editor Melissa Pappas at insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org.

As we go into the winter months we need to focus on the Challenge Grant. Youa will be reaching out to all of the Resident Councils to find out the remaining amount left in the individual councils Challenge Grant. Once this information has been collected, recommendations will be made on how to proceed.

At the beginning of this year the Presidents Council submitted picnic funds to all resident councils. If not already done, please submit the resident councils picnic form, the required receipts for picnic expenses, and then basically return any picnic funds that were not used to the Presidents Council. Youa then opened the floor for questions.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 11:23 p.m.

Submitted by:

Aado Perandi
PC/RPC Secretary

MEETING REMINDERS:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, December 27, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, December 17 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, December 23 @ 1:30 p.m.