

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Leonard Thomas, Seal, 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. Jason Bruce, Exchange, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Robert Duke, Edgerton, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Georgia Afton, Community Outreach Director for Friends & co gave an overview of some of the programs offered by Friends & co. Friends & co was formerly known as Little Brothers - Friends of the Elderly and the "co" stands for community, companionship and connection. Friends & co has three primary programs that serve as a bridge between volunteers and older adults who may be experiencing some degree of loneliness and isolation with meaningful relationships.

Visiting Companions matches older adults with a volunteer for a one-on-one in-person dedicated relationship that is rich and exciting.

Phone Companions matches older adults with a volunteer for a one-on-one dedicated relationship that is similar to Visiting Companions, but takes place over the phone rather than in-person.

Coffee Talk is a volunteer operated inbound chat line for older adults who wish to have friendly and/or confidential chat(s). The Coffee Talk line is open Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Friends & co would like to partner with us to help make older adults aware of the programs available. They have promotional material on their programs, and we can help with delivering the material to older adults door-to-door.

Community Conversations is a newer three part guided conversation series that gives a platform for older Minnesotan's to express their joys and concerns about aging in our state. Each session is about two hours in length.

Georgia reminded us to never let your friends feel lonely... Disturb them all the time. She then took questions. Friends & co website is at <https://friendsco.org/>

Georgia Afton can be reached at gafton@friendsco.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

For October the cleared balance is eighty-nine thousand, eight hundred eighteen dollars and twenty-three cents (\$89,818.23). The ending balance is eighty-nine thousand, one hundred thirteen dollars and twenty-two cents (\$89,113.22). 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.

Front hi-rise will have corridors painted next week; Seal hi-rise will have corridors painted starting in about a month and a half; Valley hi-rise Resident Services office expansion work will be continuing until about January; Valley hi-rise electrical upgrade has one building wide electrical shutdown remaining and a number of smaller isolated electrical shutdowns for each floor; Hamline, Cleveland, Seal, Montreal and Neill hi-rises will have sidewalk trip-hazards ground down during the next week; Wilson hi-rise has some no heat issues that are being worked on; Hamline hi-rise has some hot water issues that are being worked on; Seal hi-rise has a water shutdown today; the roundabout work near Montreal hi-rise appears to be done.

Brent.Feller@stpha.org

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT *(continued)*

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

1. Fire alarm inspections will be going on at the hi-rises through next week.
2. Carpeted area of the Montreal community room has been out of commission, water damaged carpeting will be replaced within the next couple of weeks.
3. Heat is on at all of the buildings. The HVAC team is making sure that the hot water and boilers are running correctly.
4. Look out for snow removal postings and be prepared to move your vehicles so that the parking lots can be plowed.
5. New information displays will be installed at Montreal and Edgerton. Once these are installed and working, displays will be installed at the other hi-rises.
6. Edgerton hi-rise had some electrical issues two weeks ago. It is mostly resolved, but there are still some issues that still remain to be fixed.
7. For normal maintenance requests, please call in a work order at 651-298-4413.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise representatives.

Michael.Silvan@stpha.org

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mela Krick, Resident Services Senior Manager, reported that Union Gospel Mission (UGM) supplied

Thanksgiving Day meals at the hi-rises, and will also be supplying Christmas Day meals. If there are any comments or suggestions about these meals please leave a message with Mela. When we have snow, please be prepared to move your car from the parking lot, so that the lot can be plowed. If cars are not removed, they will most likely need to be towed. During winter, even though snow and ice are removed, there can still be slippery areas, so be careful so as not to slip and fall. Please make sure radiators used for heating, in your unit, are not blocked and air conditioning covers are properly installed. If your unit is low on heat or you have any issues with the AC covers, please let maintenance know by calling in a work order at 651-298-4413.

Mela Krick then took questions.

Mela.Krick@stpha.org or 651-292-6183

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Darryl Boerger, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit reported that Sgt. Girard Dehal is the Officer in Residence (OIR) at Edgerton. The OIR at Central hi-rise is moving out. There is a new person that is planning on moving in, probably in the middle of December. The OIR position at Exchange is again vacant since the person who initially was interested in Exchange is going to Central. If there are any concerns with the OIR in your building, please contact Sgt. Boerger at the contact information shown below. Tom Erickson is retiring, he has been with ACOP for seven or eight years, and he is a twenty-six year veteran of the Saint Paul Police Department. He will be replaced with Demarcus Zera, who will be riding around with Mohamed Dahir. There are now additional winter safe places, opened for unsheltered folks, by the county.

The cellphone number for the Community Liaison Officers is 651-755-3525 that is answered M-F from 6:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. After hours, the ACOP number is 651-558-2305.

As always, do not let unauthorized non-residents into the buildings. If appropriate call the non-emergency number at 651-291-1111 or the emergency number at 911. He then took questions.

darryl.boerger@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-331-0510

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. December PC Meeting Cancellation. The next President Council meeting is scheduled for December 25, which lands on a holiday. Therefore, the PC Board has propose that the December PC meeting be cancel. Yasmine Aminou, Central made a motion to cancel the December meeting. Marissa Wagner, Neill, seconded and the Motion carried.
2. Resident Council Guide Update. Youa thanked the Residents Council Guide Committee for their work in July to come up with the changes which they would like to see in the Resident Council Guide. There was some discussion on the changes. The recommended changes will be posted for thirty days then the PC will come back to vote to approve of the recommendations.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Leonard Thomas, Seal, Commissioner reported that the last meeting was canceled, so there was no report.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director was not available so that there was no report.

Alicia.Huckleby@stpha.org

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, updated us on education and training, etc. Beth works with the Resident Initiatives (RI) department and Section 3 unemployment is part of that. Beth is now also the Resident Initiatives Program Coordinator. Beth has moved into a broader position, but she is still working to provide resources and training at the PHA for employment, job skills training, education, micro-grants, and scholarships, anything that will move residents forward toward employment or careers.

Beth has visited the resident councils from Central, Edgerton, Exchange and Montreal so far, with Neill, Ravoux and Cleveland on the schedule. She was checking in on the interest of some the programs proposed for the first quarter of 2024. Beth was hoping to get a positive response for the Twin Cities Rise Empowerment course, but it seems as though not many are interested in this course. This course is about building self-confidence and improving relationships both at work and at home. If you or you know of others that would be interested in this course please connect with Beth.

What she is hearing is the desire for digital literacy courses. She will be asking at the councils about training, how they might be offered and seeing what can be worked out with the Computer Team, other residents or outside organizations to provide consistent training for digital literacy.

Beth is also looking for validation for small business training which she is hoping to provide. It is possible that some of the courses could be split up into individual sessions. Beth is in the planning stage as to what training might be offered.

If we have any questions regarding employment, education or training please contact Beth, as shown below. Beth then took questions.

Elizabeth.Pacunas@stpha.org or 651-298-4929

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, had a few updates. Betsy reported that she coordinates various health and wellness initiatives.

Upcoming winter programming:

- Partnering with Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation to get out to each hi-rise and offer a one hour recycling session.
- Betsy will be meeting with Ramsey County Master Gardeners next month to talk about spring garden classes. They plan on offering a couple of classes at each hi-rise, same as last year, but with changing out the topics.

- Planning to launch partnering with Friends & co this winter.

If there are any questions about any of the above programming, please contact Betsy. She then took questions.

Betsy can be reached by email at betsy.christensen@stpha.org or by phone at 651-298-4030.

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator informed us that sixty percent of the resident councils have failed their fall 2023 audit and that they will need to work to fix their mistakes and make their corrections or they will not receive their allocated funds. This is the largest percentage of councils that are not meeting their requirements. A big portion of the holds may be related to the fact that councils has met the documentation requirement but has not completed their November audits. There are still a few days left for the Quickbook Peers to complete the November audits at the hi-rises. Therefore, once the November audits are completed, half of the holds will be remove. In regards to the hold that were placed on councils for document incompleteness, Youa has reached out to the councils to discuss ways on how the councils can make corrections to remove the holds on the release of their fall funding. Also, councils will need to turn in their picnic receipts, picnic forms and unused picnic funds within the next two weeks, if not already done. She reminded resident councils that the reading of the proposed budget must be in the new business section of the September meeting minutes and the passing of the budget must be in the old business section of the October meeting minutes.

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

Youa.thao@stpha.org or 651-228-3205

Submitted by:

Aado Perandi
PC/RPC Secretary

MEETING REMINDERS:

(Meeting through Zoom)

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, January 22, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 11 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, December 28 @ 1:00 p.m.

RPC Meeting: Wednesday, December 6 @ 10:00 a.m.