

Presidents Council Minutes

1/26/15

Take back to your councils:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Connie Lydon from Neill Hi-Rise. Hi-rise representatives, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Keith Draz, Tim Angaran, BettyLou Authier, Anne Tranvik, Nina Semmelroth, Aaron Smothers, Mai Moua

Secretary's Report

The minutes from last month had been sent out. PC Secretary Melissa Pappas called for a motion to accept them. Cathy Hicks Made a motion t accept the minutes as sent out. Lisa Lee seconded. Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

PC Treasurer Jesse Thomas did not give the full December report because he was still working on it. The bank balance right now is \$71,426.79 Expenses and income for December were gone over. The final PHA/RPC Grant checks were distributed. Cathy Hicks made a motion to accept the report. Jerline Clark seconded. Motion carried.

Board of Commissioners Report

No report because the meeting hadn't been held yet.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

Interim Manager Tim Angaran spoke.

New laundry machines probably won't be installed until early March. The machines are from Speed Queen. All machines will be replaced.

A question was asked about how long the transition would take. The total process should take about twelve days. It should take one or two days per hi-rise. There will be both front loaders and top loaders.

The cost of a load of wash will not change.

It's up to the hi-rise if they want the laundry liaison to handle reporting all issues or if they want individual residents to continue doing it. (Either way is fine.)

Coinmach contact info:

<http://www.coinmach.com>

877-264-6622

Thanks were given to maintenance for fixing Edgerton's heat issue so quickly. Props were also given to Valley's caretaker.

There are heat issues at Exchange on the first floor. Also at Hamline.

PHA Report

Nina Semmelroth filled in for Charisse Brown this month.

The date for stopping taking in person rent payments is still set for June 1st. There will be notice at least a month before that. Options are still being looked into.

Safety and Security Report

Keith Draz spoke.

He asked for feedback on this year's safety presentation. Response was generally positive.

Keith will be bringing a report on safety issues at each hi-rise over the past year to the next Resident Council meetings. Recently a resident from Iowa was hit by a car and killed crossing White Bear Ave. A reminder was given to use lighted crosswalks and be careful crossing busy streets. Reflective clothing at night or on gloomy days is also a good idea.

The recent shooting at Valley was mentioned. There is still investigation going on about that.

The person making threats and who ended up getting killed was not a resident. Not many other people were involved.

Wi-Fi Project

Aaron Smothers gave an update on the project.

All but two hi-rises have had the initial survey done with the test routers.

The plan of action for eight sites has been sent out. The plans for the other sites will be completed in the next couple days.

A question was raised about how the equipment needs are determined.

Generally, the existing Wi-Fi signal is tested and then a test router is hooked up. The signal is then tested again. The setup is also examined to see how things should be placed and if additional wiring and cabling needs to be done.

Upgrading Internet connection speed is something to consider. That would allow more people to be on the network at the same time. Right now we have Comcast Business Class and that should be pretty fast already.

Section 3

Beth Pacunas spoke about training opportunities.

Basic computer skills, advanced computer skills, business writing were the things asked for most in the survey.

There will be training in how to take care of your computer at Central and Mt. Airy. This will deal with things like updates, avoiding malware, being safe online.

There will be workplace essentials classes offered at Mt. Airy in March. This gives people the skills to get jobs such as office specialist or maintenance.

Healthcare training will be offered in partnership with Sholom Home.

Accent reduction classes are being looked into.

Classes for high school kids will be offered at the family sites. These will deal with moving from high school to college or a job.

Contact Beth With questions or comments at Elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org

Resident Initiatives Report

No report this month.

SHIP Grant Report

Anne Tranvik and Betsy spoke.

Updates were given on their activities.

Healthy vending was discussed first. One of the things being worked on is encouraging people to cut down on sugar sweetened beverages. There will be 'rethink your drink' demonstrations at the hi-rises. These are short presentations to educate residents about the amount of sugar in different beverages.

Diabetes prevention is another thing being worked on. Nine out of ten people who are pre-diabetic don't know it. If you are pre-diabetic you have a good chance of getting diabetes. SHIP is working with Open Cities on educational opportunities.

The Mobile Markets are getting used by a number of people. They go to Valley, Iowa, and Mt. Airy. They also go to McDonough and a number of other sites on the East Side. They accept WIC and EBT. Anyone can shop at these mobile markets.

They have mostly healthy food items. You can make item suggestions if something you want isn't stocked.

Unfortunately the buses aren't handicapped accessible.

Is there interest in having a walking kickoff? This would help encourage starting a walking club. It would take place in the spring sometime.

A question was raised about working with people who have limited English. There might be concerns from those individuals about being able to communicate if there was a problem.

Having whistles people could blow was suggested. Having signs with pictures could be used along with that. (Someone in distress could hold up the sign in addition to blowing the whistle.

Indoor walking just on the first floor was suggested. That would allow those with walkers or who couldn't climb stairs to participate.

Exercise with stretch bands: SHIP can purchase these for group exercise. The bands must be left for all residents to use. That means there is the possibility of them walking off.

A question was asked about grants to purchase exercise equipment. In the past Allina provided funds for equipment at Ravoux. There is no current grant but we could certainly look into others. SHIP can provide educational support.

Old Business

Final smoking ban decisions:

Front: Yes. No smoking in front of building.

Cleveland: Yes. No smoking near building.

Seal: Smoking area moved away from front door.

Edgerton: Yes. No smoking near building.

Montreal: Yes. No smoking near building.

Hamline: Two smoking areas away from the front door.

Exchange: Yes. Smoking is still allowed in back.

Iowa: Area in front split between smoking and non-smoking. Back area still the same.

Valley: Smoking allowed on front patio.

Dunedin: No change.

Wilson: No change.

Ravoux: Smoking allowed around the corner from the front.

Wabasha: Yes. No smoking near building.

Central: No change.

Neill: No change.

The cold weather rule was gone over again. If the temperature is below -1 at 7:00AM or there is a 20 below windchill meetings will be cancelled.

David Cox made a motion to approve the cold weather rule for all committees and the Presidents Council. Rick Palmer seconded. Motion carried.

Resident Council Coordinator

Eileen Tittle spoke about a number of things.

The recent training done by Wilder went well.

We are still waiting for the final audit reports from PHA.

There are free Excel classes available at the Rondo library. Classes will be on March 4th and 5th and 11th and 12th. They run from 3 to 5PM. Call 651-266-7460 to register.

The Computer Grant was discussed.

A tentative list of what will be purchased was handed out.

Questions were raised about DeepFreeze. This is a program that prevents users from making permanent changes to the computer setup. DeepFreeze will not be put on office computers unless there is a special need.

Many hi-rises wanted new chairs and paper shredders.

There is a possibility of getting Windows 10 free. We will be holding off buying a lot of Windows 8 until we find out about that.

There is a new policy in place that anyone who has received a stipend from the Presidents Council needs to fill out a W9 form. These forms need to be brought back at next month's meeting. This is in case we get audited by HUD.

A shout out was given to Jesse Thomas for all the hard work he has been doing.

New Business

Ruby Steward spoke about emailing monthly financial documents and meeting minutes.

Financial documents are sent to financial@stphapresidentscouncil.org

Minutes go to minutes@stphapresidentscouncil.org

Paperwork should not be sent by postal mail or hand delivered.

If the secretary or treasurer can't email the documents hopefully someone else on the board can do it. You will be receiving a tutorial about sending paperwork this week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55AM

Next meeting: February 23rd

Computer Team: February 19th, 1:30PM

Community Building: February 6th, 9:30AM

Executive Board: February 13th, 11:00AM

Peer Team: February 20th, 9:30AM

