

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Candy Pernel, Ravoux, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated all Reps had a copy of last month's Minutes in their information packets. The Presidents Council Minutes are also available on the P.C. website at www.stphapresidentscouncil.org. Any discrepancies found to be in the Minutes, should be brought up during the Secretary's Report at the next meeting.

Information regarding orange Pedestrian Crosswalk Flags was not included in the December P.C. Minutes. An addendum will be added to the December Minutes to include this information.

A Motion was made by Ron Sexton, Exchange, to accept the Minutes, with amendments, as they stand. It was seconded by Violet Brant, Wilson, and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Julie Wolfe, St. Paul–Ramsey Public Health Department, stated her job is to work on healthy aging in the county and coordinating services. She also spoke about the importance of the upcoming Census, and doing a complete count so we don't lose a seat. They are 1,000 people short of Census Takers and Door-knockers will begin their jobs starting in April. She also stated that a month or two ago, Minnesota Governor Walz, declared Minnesota an "age-friendly state" through the Governor's Council, which steers the process for that designation. Julie Wolfe would like to create an age-friendly Ramsey County by forming a steering committee of experts and community members, who will lead the process which will lead to age-friendly communities. She will leave her business card at the back of the room – along with flyers -- for anyone who would like to help with this endeavor, or who have any questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for the month of December. The cleared balance is sixty-two thousand, eight hundred eighty-two dollars and two cents (\$62,882.02). The ending balance is sixty thousand, one hundred forty-two dollars and zero cents (\$60,142.00). The report will be filed for audit.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager, said their trash compactor project is completed and all of them are working well now. New elevators are being installed at Exchange, Neill, Dunedin and Central Hi-Rises. He also gave updates on other projects that are on-going, and will have meetings with residents to keep them up on how those projects are progressing. They are also attempting to speed up the process of getting laundry room machines swapped out as soon as possible.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT (continued)

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director, Construction Program Manager updated the P.C. on the whirlpool tub installations. They are still in the process of installing them at Front and Exchange. Wabasha just needs final checks to be up and running. Edgerton and Central should already be completed. He also talked about air conditioning sleeves. They have been going through all units, checking to make sure there is no cold air coming in that will freeze and break water pipes; which in turn flood apartments next to and below them. He answered any questions representatives had.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, stated the PHA has signed 3,854 leases and she wanted to thank everyone for their cooperation. Only one lease signing is left to be completed. She also spoke about the “one time” and “reoccurring” rent payment options, along with credit cards used to pay your rent.

If you have any concerns about any security issues at your building, be sure and let your manager know about them. Exchange and Wabasha have more security, due to the activities in downtown St. Paul. You can also contact Charisse if you feel you need more security.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP unit, will give her report at the next P.C. meeting. If you need further information regarding ACOP, or have questions, contact Sgt. Boyer at **651-558-2305**, or email her at Amy.Boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

OLD BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said John Cardoza intended to be at this meeting, but couldn't make it. But he did speak with Julia about what he wanted on the Agenda. He would like to reopen the idea of the P.C. applying for the Lyft Grant. He wants permission from the P.C. to explore the Lyft Community Grant, find out more about what it entails, and then apply for the Grant to benefit the residents in all of the hi-rise buildings. There is a flyer in your packets regarding the Lyft Community Grant., and Julia Hupperts suggested a committee be formed to investigate it further. Amy Seaman, Montreal agreed to head the committee. If you need further information or clarification, contact Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org. After questions and a lengthy discussion, a Motion was made by Ron Sexton to form a committee to further look into the Lyft Grant. It was seconded by Amy Seaman, Montreal and the Motion carried.

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, presented draft forms of *House Rules for Council Meetings* and a form that is to be returned to the P.C. to confirm the names or numbers of resident council mail boxes. These draft forms were discussed and approved at the last P.C. meeting and she now seeks final approval of these forms. Jesse Thomas, Seal made a Motion that the *House Rules for council Meetings* be accepted as they stand. The Motion was seconded by Camille Gunderson, Neill and the Motion carried. Another Motion was made by Amy Seaman, Montreal, to approve the Hi-Rise Mail Box form, which was seconded by Camille Gunderson, Neill, and the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Natalie Mikkelson, PHA Green Initiatives, referred everybody to the flyer in their packet regarding Herman's Garden Seed Donation Program.

Each year, Seed Savers Exchange donates the previous year's unsold seeds to charitable organizations through our Herman's Garden Seed Donation Program. To qualify for a Herman's Garden seed donation, an organization must be a nonprofit or have a nonprofit umbrella sponsorship and have a shipping address within the United States. Neither seeds nor resulting produce from a Herman's Garden seed donation may be sold, raffled, or given in exchange for money or donation, including for fundraising events. Herman's Garden volunteers pre-pack the donation boxes with 50 seed packets, each a different variety. Recipients do not choose specific varieties, but will receive a wide selection of seeds. Organizations may not apply for more than one Herman's Garden seed donation within a twelve month period. The 50 packets of seeds will be distributed throughout all sixteen hi-rises. **There will be a \$15 shipping and handling charge for each donation**, but the PHA will pay for shipping and handling. A Motion was made by Amy Seaman, Montreal, stating that we apply for the seed donation. The Motion was seconded by Ron Sexton, Exchange, and was carried.

Natalie also gave a quick update on the Gardening Mentor Program. Twelve applicants applied and were accepted into the program.

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator. There is another opening on the Presidents Council Executive Board, and she asked the representatives at the table if there was anyone who would like to volunteer for that position. Jesse Thomas, Seal, agreed to fill that spot. A Motion was made by Violet Brant, Wilson that Jesse Thomas be appointed to the P.C. Executive Board. The Motion was seconded by Albert Bacon, Front, and the Motion carried. Jesse was then sworn in by Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, talked about a group of partners who have meetings on a quarterly basis, invited by the PHA, and they are referred to as our "quarterly partner meetings". She feels these are very important for the agency because it helps them network and stay connected with all of the partner organizations, who provide resources and services to you and to your neighbors. But also it's important for our partners to make sure they are communicating with each other, so that the work they're doing is in sync or complimentary. She would like for us to have a theme each year for the agency and the partners to focus on. In the past, themes have included Diabetes Management and Awareness, Smoking Cessation and the HUD Smoking Rule. They've also focused on Mental Health Resources and Awareness. These meetings typically begin April 1st, when the PHA's fiscal year begins. She felt it was time they checked in with the P.C. to see if there are specific topics that have come up frequently in your hi-rises, at your council meetings, or with PHA staff, that you would like them and their partners to focus on. She went around the table of representatives to get suggestions.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Commissioner, Cleveland, will give a report at our next meeting.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Natalie Mikkelson, PHA Green Initiatives Technician, filled in for Betsy Christensen and stated that Census Bags, filled with items such as fans, stickers, notepads, flyers, etc., were brought to the P.C. meeting to be given to all representatives to take back to their hi-rises. She also gave a couple Bounce Back updates. They are in the process of creating Bounce Back toolkits to be used at each hi-rise. They're not ready for distribution yet, but will be soon. The focus for February 16-24 is Kindness Week, and they are in the process of creating posters to go up in each hi-rise emphasizing this. She will also be attending the February 7th Community Sharing Meeting at Ravoux Hi-Rise to get some feedback on any resources that should be included in the toolkit.

Ann Tranvik, Ramsey County Public Health Nurse. Ann passed around various flyers containing information on all the activities that are or will be taking place. Bring these to your council meetings, or post them in your buildings to share with residents. She also stated that in her office at Public Health, it was mentioned that the pay for Census takers went up from \$22/hr. to \$27/hr. Ramsey County is in need of at least a thousand more Census takers, which accounts for the raise in pay.

The Garden Mentor Training classes are now closed, but she wanted to thank those hi-rises that participated. They are also in the process of printing more Food Resource Guides and they will be available in April.

QuitPlan smoking cessation support enrollment will end in March 2020. However, everyone enrolled before March will continue to receive services. SHIP is working on providing a resource list on other available smoking cessation resources.

GREEN INITIATIVES REPORT

Natalie Mikkelson, PHA Green Initiatives Technician. If you have any questions regarding Green Initiatives, or need further information, contact Natalie Mikkelson at 651-298-5222, or email her at natalie.mikkelson@stpha.org.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy. Her job as Section 3 Coordinator is to organize partnerships and find people jobs, field training, and education that will lead to employment; anything that will help people get skills for work.

There is a scholarship opportunity available. Need to brush up on your job skills, or learn how to get along better in the workplace? Applications are now being accepted for Twin Cities RISE. These classes will help with skill building career readiness and interpersonal workplace skills and will involve 10 rules for success, 21st century skills inventory, resumes and interviewing, researching career opportunities, assertiveness in the workplace, fear of failure, problem solving, and more. It will take place at the McDonough Community Center, Tuesdays only between February 25 – March 31st; 2:30 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. Applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, February 18th, and should be submitted to the St. Paul PHA Resident Initiatives Department at the downtown office. Partial transportation assistance may be provided. Flyers will be delivered to the hi-rises in the coming week regarding this.

If you or someone you know is trying to find a job, obtain job skills or education, or if they just need more information on Section 3, call Beth Pacunas at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at Elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, reminded everyone that the new mileage rates were included in their packets. We must follow the IRS guidelines for mileage transportation reimbursement. She also talked about the following:

- The date has already been set and confirmed for the Annual Officers Recognition Event. The date is Monday, June 1, 2020 at the Wilder Foundation, 451 Lexington Parkway, North (Lexington & University), St. Paul, MN. And it will be held in the morning. Resident councils must pay \$25.00 for each officer attending, and she encourages all hi-rises to send all of their officers.
- There will be a Community Sharing Circle meeting, Friday, February 7th at 10:00 a.m., at Ravoux Hi-Rise.
- *Opening a Window to Opportunity* is a newsletter put out by Resident Initiatives. It contains information that's relevant to all residents of all PHA facilities.
- 30-Day Gratitude Challenge. A calendar that asks what you're grateful for every day of the month.
- She reminded everyone that resident council officers are expected to attend resident council meetings and executive board meetings, unless otherwise excused.
- Volunteers are needed for the Annual Recognition Committee. If interested in helping with the planning of this event, let Julia Hupperts know either by phone at **651-228-3205** or email her at Julia.hupperts@stpha.org. She also reminded everyone that we're getting close to new elections in June, but the election process begins in April and will be overseen by an Election Judge. Training for Election Judges will begin in March and if you're interested in being a Judge, contact Julia Hupperts. She then explained what being an Election Judge entailed.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary
peetiebird2@gmail.com

MEETING REMINDERS:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee: February 14 @ 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Sharing: February 7 @ 10:00 a.m. at Ravoux Hi-Rise.

Computer Team: February 27 @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.