

Presidents Council Minutes

12/22/14

**Take back to your councils:
Please complete the Section 3 training
survey
Please use the help desk when there is a
Computer problem**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Cathy Hicks from Valley Hi-Rise Hi-rise representatives, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Keith Draz, Tim Angaran, BettyLou Authier, Anne Tranvik, Betsy Christianson, Charisse Brown, Alicia Huckleby, Jon Gutzman, Mike Winston, Mai Moua, Holly Gray, Alicia Huckleby

Secretary's Report

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

Executive Director

Jon Gutzman spoke.

He wished everyone happy holidays from PHA. He then spoke about the plan to stop accepting rent payments at CAO. The big issue is that they are not equipped to handle receiving payments.

There are usually around 1000 people who pay rent in person each month. Many request envelopes or assistance when making their payments. The policy will likely change on June 1st. Notice will be sent out two months before the change goes into effect.

A drop box is being considered. (There are some possible issues with that though.) The drop box would likely be outside if there was one. (You would be able to drive up or walk up and make your payment.)

Another option is accepting in person payments in hardship situations. Those payments would be accepted at another site such as McDonough. Electronic payments might also be considered.

Many residents will be unhappy with having to mail rent in. The drop box idea has been suggested by a number of people.

Having a time stamp on the drop box if possible was suggested. That would have to be looked into.

Having the security guard do the time stamping was suggested. That is not part of their job and they shouldn't be expected to do that.

Treasurer's Report

PC Treasurer Jesse Thomas gave the financial report for November.

The budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was also discussed.

A simplified budget vs actual form was handed out. It just showed the PC/ RPC fund and the amounts spent so far.

Recycling checks were handed out.

The Secretary of State filing information was also handed out. Make sure your treasurer gets that since it needs to go into their book.

The stipend payment chart has been updated. Changes were discussed.

Transportation for all meetings is not reimbursed. You need a receipt, transfer, online printout to get reimbursed for bus or Metro Mobility fares.

Starting and ending odometer read outs are necessary for mileage reimbursement. Cab fare must have prior approval before being reimbursed.

Board of Commissioners Report

Mary Puente gave the report.

The majority of the things discussed at the meeting did not pertain to the hi-rises.

Community solar gardens were discussed. This is a plot with solar panels not flowers. Having these solar panels could help reduce energy costs.

There was an article about Hamline hi-rise in the Pioneer Press recently. It talked about a neighbor who regularly brings them baked goods.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

There was no maintenance report at this meeting.

PHA Report

Principal Manager, Charisse Brown gave the report.

New managers at Dunedin and McDonough started today. LaSondra Clark is the manager at Dunedin. She will also be at Iowa hi-rise.

Smoking in front of hi-rises was brought up. There is the feeling that PHA should outlaw it across the board.

A question was raised about the grievance policy.

Safety and Security Report

Keith Draz spoke.

He passed out a handout about the upcoming crime prevention night. The handout included the calendar of when all the classes will be held.

The topic this time is how alcohol and illegal and prescription drugs have an impact on our homes.

Medicinal marijuana will be discussed. The effects of drugs on the body and drug laws in this state will also be dealt with. (So will prescription drug addiction and abuse.)

Wi-Fi Project

Eileen Tittle gave an update on this project.

Nothing will be installed without maintenance approval. There was a meeting with Tim Angaran and Desi Larsen from MIS recently about this.

We are looking for a router that is also a POE. This will remove the need for any rewiring in the buildings.

POE means power over Ethernet. Using this technology means a router can be installed without running a power receptacle to the wireless access points. This technology is commonly used in office buildings and allows networking without running lots of cables.

Computer Team:

Melissa Pappas gave an update on the computer team and what it has been doing.

In the last few months there have been regular meetings of the computer team. Computer administrator manuals were finally handed out. These are

available for any resident to check out and use. (You would need to see your computer admin to do this.) Books are not meant to be left out in the community room.

Remember to use the help desk and report issues in a timely manner. There have been cases where a hi-rise had a computer down for some time and the computer team didn't know about it. Help desk requests are responded to promptly and issues are usually taken care of.

Community Building

Mary Puente talked about the Stew Pot project. Edgerton has already completed their board.

Hi-rises should make up a poster showcasing the different residents in the building. The poster can include photos, national flags, etc. The only needed supplies are a piece of foam board or poster board and anything you want to decorate it. (Boards can be decorated in many different ways.) Translation was asked about.

Resident Initiatives Report

Alicia Huckleby gave the report.

The Twin Cities market just started last week. It goes to Valley, Iowa, Mt. Airy, and the Mt. Airy community center. The market has good quality food and low prices. 20-25 residents from Iowa have already made use of this. 10-15 from Mt. Airy have tried it. There is a break for the holidays and then the market will be weekly. Notice will be posted about the markets.

The market sites were chosen because there are not a lot of grocery stores near them.

Some residents would like to see more variety at the market. This is meant to be a way to get people healthy food so there won't be a lot of bakery and junk food items.

Food is purchased by Wilder from Cub at cost and then resold to those who use the markets.

A question was raised about getting the markets at other sites.

Right now Wilder is focusing on getting healthy food in areas that are considered 'food deserts' (no grocery stores in a one mile radius). They can't come to some sites at this time because of that.

HAFAs:

Resident Initiatives is meeting with HAFAs to discuss plans for next summer. It's not clear right now what will be offered this time.

Section 3:

The training survey has been handed out. It should be posted at your hi-rise and residents should be encouraged to fill one out.

We need that information to structure what training would be offered.

Classes would be held at as many sites as possible.

Surveys need to be completed by January 1st. Give completed surveys to your HSC.

Thanks were given for your support of all the SHIP/ Resident Initiatives activities.

SHIP Grant Report

Anne Tranvik and Betsy Christiansen spoke.

Updates were given on their activities.

Bike racks will be looked into. Whether more are needed or if existing racks need replacement will be seen.

Right now Hamline, Montreal, and Mt. Airy hi-rises have walking groups. All hi-rises have at least some exercise equipment.

There is funding for some things like stretch bands and exercise balls.

There was a bike giveaway at the family sites. This was through a partnership with Free Bikes For Kids. 266 bikes were given out to kids from all four family sites. Allina Health provided helmets. Cycles For Change provided locks. Over the three years of the partnership 750 bikes have been given out.

There will be NiceRide activities in the summer.

Anne Tranvik talked about healthy eating.

A healthy vending update was handed out.

There has been an 11% increase in healthy vending since the beginning of the project.

A pilot vending subsidy at a few sites is being looked into. Those that have C & S vending are eligible for this. The subsidy will focus on healthy beverages. There will be .50 off all healthy beverages for the two weeks of this subsidy. Healthy beverages are things like water, fruit juice, diet soda, iced tea.

There is no cost to the hi-rises to participate in this.

There needs to be 35% healthy vending during the subsidy period.

A Smart Snacking promotion is another idea. Free samples of healthy snacks will be given out.

Rethink Your Drink Demonstrations are available. This is a hands on way to see how much sugar is in various drinks.

All three of these things will take place in February.

The raised garden beds are coming. Committees will start to meet in February and March.

Diabetes prevention is being looked at. There may be presentations in the coming year.

Old Business

Smoking in front of hi-rises was discussed again.

This issue has been discussed at all the hi-rises.

Several hi-rises decided to leave things as they were because there were no issues with smoking near the doors. Others did decide to move the smoking area.

New Business

We need to decide if we want an all hi-rise picnic or individual picnics. If we decide on an all hi-rise picnic we will need to get the park permit asap. (If there was more time this would be taken back to the councils)

Transportation would be an issue if there was an all hi-rise picnic.

It seemed like the majority of people preferred individual picnics. Because of that there will be individual picnics next year.

Meeting adjourned at 11:53AM

Next meeting: January 26th

Computer Team: January 8th, 1:30PM

**Community Building: January 9th,
9:30AM**

Executive Board: January 16th, 11:00AM

Peer Team: January 16th, 9:30AM