

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

December 24, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Teresa Souvannachack, Chairperson, Montreal, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on December 24, 2018 at 10:05 a.m. Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated all Reps should have a copy of the Minutes from the last meeting, which were also posted at each hi-rise and on the P.C. website for the past month. If any discrepancies were discovered, now is the time to bring them up. A Motion was made by Donna Walters, Seal, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Tim Gjerdahl, Ravoux and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER – PC'S FOR PEOPLE

George Xenos, PC's for People. PC's for People customers now can get more than a low-cost computer and Internet hotspot at our Saint Paul store. Since September they have been offering free training through our new Digital Literacy Center. Classes are hands-on and kept small so learners get the individual instruction most beneficial to their needs, according to Digital Training Manager George Xenos. By far the biggest demand has been for basic troubleshooting techniques, with more than 100 customers being trained since September. Customers learn how to determine whether problems are associated with hardware, by testing components and cables, and the proper approach to update software, check for and remove viruses and unnecessary programs and files. Classes are taught by George Xenos and Norma Saavedra, Community Technology Empowerment Project (STEP) AmeriCorps worker. George and Norma can be reached by calling **651-354-2552**, or email them at gxenos@pcsforpeople.org and nsaavedra@pcsforpeople.org. They are also willing to come out to individual hi-rises and offer computer classes; involving how the computer works and getting onto the Internet, obtaining an email address, etc. Flyers were in all Reps packages.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, presented the report for November. The checkbook register balance is twenty-five thousand three hundred collars and fifty-fiver cents.(\$25,361.55). The ending balance is twenty-two thousand, eight hundred sixty-eight dollars and 63 cents (\$22,868.63). The report will be filed for audit.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

A report will be given at the next meeting.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, thanked everyone for their participation in the hi-rise RAD meeting, which explained what RAD was and how it worked. There will be additional information that will be coming, and as soon as they get it, it'll be passed onto you.

The Montreal plumbing project is moving along nicely. She also re-emphasized how important it is that all windows, both in the hallway and apartments **must not** be kept open during the cold winter months, as that will burst the water pipe and flood not only your apartment, but your neighbors' apartments, as well.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Officer Bjorkman of the St. Paul Police Department gave a rundown of what's been happening the past month. He said things have been relatively quiet in the hi-rises. There were only a few minor incidents. He also cautioned people against leaving their cars alone when they warm them up. They can be stolen very quickly. He then took questions.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

- The PHA is not legally allowed to accept gifts, so Julia Hupperts passed some they had received to chosen hi-rise Representatives, to take back to their council.
- *Julia Huppert*, Resident Council Coordinator, spoke about the Challenge Grant, which was in the amount of \$10,000.00, given to the Presidents Council by the PHA. She wants councils to “*Dream Big. Do Right*”. Each hi-rise will receive \$425.00. The amount was \$625.00 but \$200.00 will be kept in reserve for unexpected expenses in promoting health & wellness for all Hi-Rise residents. The \$425.00 has to be spent to benefit **all** residents. All resident councils will decide how the money is spent.
- The 2019 IRS mileage rates are now \$.58 per mile.
- Julia introduced a Debit card sign-out form which will make it easier to see when the cards are used and by whom. A Motion was made by Tim Gjerdahl, Ravoux, that the Debit Card Sign-Out Form be accepted as it stands. It was seconded by Donna Walters, Seal and the Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

John Cardoza gave updates from the October and November 2018 meetings of the PHA Board of Commissioners. He outlined what actions were taken at each of those meetings and answered questions. He noted that Dave Lang, Contracts and Program Manager has retired and a Resolution in Recognition was made at one of the meetings.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Interim Human Resource Director, gave an update on the awards process by the National Association of Housing Officials (NAHRO), the affordable housing advocacy group which has chapters across the country. Each year, NAHRO invites housing authorities across the country to submit written updates on projects that they've been doing in their area when it comes to self-sufficiency, capital improvement, or just good partnership efforts. So, the Award of Excellence we won was hard-fought and is very much appreciated.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Ann Tranvik, St. Paul Public Health Department Nurse, works with Betsy Christensen, Resident Initiatives, and those involved with the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

Ann Tranvik put the word to encourage everyone to discuss the *Gardening Mentor Program* at your council meetings. This will be the third year this program has been in existence. The program is designed to train residents who love gardening to get some basic skills and become Garden Mentors. She's concerned about the lack of residents coming forward to sign up for the classes. Posters are up in the buildings and the deadline for signing up is December 31, 2018. If you need an application, see your Manager or HSC person in your building.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE (continued)

Smoking Cessation stations were held at hi-rises November 15 for the Great American Smoke-out, and there was an amazing amount of support from the hi-rises. Over 160 people attended these stations. Because it was so well received, they wondered if it would be of interest to offer this rotating from month to month around all of the sites again. She passed around a sign-up sheet to all hi-rise Reps who can sign up for additional smoking Cessation programs at their hi-rise. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Program at **651-298-4030**, or email betsy.christensen@stpha.org.

In your packet is a flyer regarding the Food Resource Guide. It was given to all Reps and provides information about where to get free or low-cost food in your neighborhood, including food shelves, Fare for All, Farmers Markets, and free dining sites.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, referred to a flyer in your packets regarding the Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS). The Senior Law Project at SMRLS is funded under the Older Americans Act through the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging. Its services – and presentations – are free, but due to limited resources, it can accept only certain types of cases. If you have additional questions, contact Senior Attorney, Laura Orr at **1-888-575-2954**.

Shoveling of sidewalks was talked about. The PHA maintains its sidewalks very adequately. The flyer that was handed out explains things such as: who needs to shovel, when to shovel, where to shovel, what happens if you don't shovel? If you need further assistance regarding this, call 651-266-8989, or visit www.smart-trips.org/sidewalks.

A letter was presented addressed to: The Honorable Tina Smith, U.S. Senate, on behalf of the P.C. Occasionally such letters like this are sent by the Presidents Council.

Lastly, if your hi-rise did not have an annual picnic, you must return the money that was given to you for that purpose by the PHA, who in turn will return it to HUD. If you have questions whether this pertains to your hi-rise, see Julia Hupperts.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by:



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

Meeting Reminders:

Presidents Council Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Executive Committee: Friday, January 18, 2019 @ 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor

Community Sharing Circle: January 4, 2019, @10:00 a.m. - 3rd floor

Computer Team: January 17, 2019, @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room