

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mindy Johnson, Cleveland, 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. Leonardo Thomas, Seal, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Bonnie Eckels, Dunedin, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jonathan Hardy, Program Manager, Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) gave an overview the Dispute Resolution Center and their services. DRC is a non-profit established in 1982. Their mission is dedicated to restoring communities by promoting the constructive resolution of conflict through open communication and shared decision-making. They aim to advance racial justice, equity and healing.

Jonathon described the DRC's four areas of programming/services as listed below.

<p style="text-align: center;">Resorative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramsey County Attorney's Office, GRO Initiative (Youth Diversion Cases 10-17 year olds)• City of Saint Paul Attorney's Office, ETHOS (Young and Adult Diversion Cases 18+ year olds)• Saint Paul Public Housing• The City of Saint Paul: Human Resources (HR), Public Works, Libraries• The Lair & Restorative Radio (WFMU 94.1 low-power FM radio)• Special Offerings/Trainings	<p style="text-align: center;">Mediation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ramsey County Courts: Housing, Conciliation [small claims court], Harassment• MHFA/HSS: Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Housing Stabilization Services• Community Mediation: Housing, Conciliation, Harassment, Family• Training: Civil Mediation Skills Training
<p style="text-align: center;">Youth Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GRO Initiative• Ramsey County• FLO (For Ladies Only) 14-17 year olds, 18-24 year olds• DMX (Divine Masculine eXcellence) 14-17 year olds, 18-24 year olds• The Lair Radio Show (youth radio show on WFMU 94.1 low-power FM)	<p style="text-align: center;">Healing Circles of Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adult Weekly Circles of Support• Youth Weekly Circles of Support• Special Healing Circles Monthly for Adults

For more information Jonathan can be reached by email at jonathan@drc-mn.org or by telephone at 651-292-7791. The floor was then opened up for questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

For December the cleared balance is eighty-eight thousand, three hundred ninety-nine dollars and ninety eight cents (88,399.98). The ending balance is eighty-eight thousand, two hundred seventy-seven dollars and eleven cents (\$88,277.11). 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.

Current projects include: the Valley hi-rise elevator project is currently working on the smaller cab, when the work for the smaller cab is finished work will begin on the larger cab; the Hamline hi-rise kitchen project is currently waiting for permits to be approved by the Minnesota Department of Health and should be starting up shortly; currently working on air balancing at the Front hi-rise—may need to get into a few units to check on exhaust fans and circulation; there will be some cellular telephone equipment work on the rooftops at Edgerton and Iowa this week—be on the lookout for no parking areas; at Dunedin there is work going on at the Head Start office.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT *(continued)*

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

1. Please move your cars so that the snow can be plowed, most of the hi-rises will be plowed today, Mount Airy and Valley will be done tomorrow, and Dunedin will be done to follow.
2. All of the current preventative inspections for the hi-rises are done, but the inspections will be starting up again late spring.
3. Work orders for most of the oven issues mentioned in the last Presidents Council meeting should have been put in and the issues should have been resolved.
4. All access cards that has been issue to Presidents Council representatives will be deactivated. If officers are planning to attend the Presidents Council meeting in person and needs access to the visitor's parking lot downtown in the Central Administrative Officer, please reach out to Youa.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise representatives.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, reported that an audit will be performed the week of February 13; the PHA files, and a random selection of units will be audited. One will not know until the day of the audit what actually will be looked at. This means that everyone needs to be prepared for the audit. Sarah is no longer the assistant manager at Iowa and Valley; she will now be working at the family sites. Iowa and Valley currently have a temporary assistant manager until a new assistant manager is hired.

Please keep the windows closed in your unit. When the weather gets cold enough, the water in the pipes could freeze, which can cause the pipes to burst. This can result in water damage. Also, it is recommended that we get renters insurance. Charisse then took questions from representatives.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit, reported that there is a new Community Liaison Officer, Dice Gay Anonimae. There will be a new Officer in Residence (OIR) at each of the following hi-rises: Montreal, Hamline, Seal, Wabasha and Exchange. Officer Tommy Adams will be the new OIR at Montreal. Sgt. Boyer reported that Ramsey County has removed the current restrictions on who can be booked into the Ramsey County jail which brings it back to the way it was before COVID.

The non-emergency number is 651-291-1111. Sgt. Amy can be reached at amy.boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us or at her cell phone 651-703-7141. She then took questions.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Mileage. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, reported that the new 2023 mileage reimbursement rate will be 65.5 cents per mile. Youa reminded the resident council treasurers that they should put a copy of the new mileage form in the Treasurer's book. Also, a copy of the new mileage form should be posted.
2. Vending Fair. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, reported that the Vending Fair will be on February 15, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. Youa will be sending posters to the residence councils which should be posted at the hi-rise. The vending fair is a good resource to help residents and councils choose their vendor for when their current contract expires.
3. Peer Advisor Application. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, reported that applications for Peer Advisers will open today and will be due by February 28, 2023. Youa recommended that anyone that is interested in a "Peer" position should apply.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Commissioner, for December reported the following:

- At the December 21st meeting the Board of Commissioners went over the PHA's audit report—the report was good
- In the next month or two, the Board of Commissioners will be working on the 2023-2024 PHA fiscal budget

John can be reached by phone at 651-955-5450. He then took questions.

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 reported that the Business Development class starts tonight at 6:00 p.m. It is a good class for those that want to start a new business and also good for those that may end up realizing they do not want to start a new business. This class will be offered through Zoom and will last for six weeks.

There is also a plan to start a Twin Cities Rise empowerment class sometime before March 31st. Also, to help people make use of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), Beth would like to find out what languages in addition to English would be useful for ACP literature and information. Beth could also use help in distributing literature at hi-rises. If we have any questions regarding employment, education or training please contact Beth at 651-252-5799.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Youa Thao reported the following for Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director who was not able to attend today's meeting.

Regarding COVID resources, following are links to information on the MN Department of Health's webpage that we use to provide guidance to employees. The Resident Councils might find it useful as well:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/contact.pdf>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/prevention.html#gather>

To protect the health and well-being of residents, staff is asked to stay at home when they are sick and are encouraged to get tested if they start developing symptoms, and are asked to quarantine themselves and wear a mask if they test positive. If your council or hi-rise is interested in getting more masks, please reach out to Betsy Christensen.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, was not here today but supplied the following as her report via email:

Winter of Gratitude – We all can experience different challenges and struggles in our daily lives. Reflecting on the good things in our lives – no matter how small or simple you think they are – can help us get through those tough days. We're bringing back the Thank You cards and Kindness Posters to help promote gratitude and kindness. Thank You cards and Kindness Posters for each Hi Rise were distributed to your Manager in mid-January.

2023 Garden Mentor Program – We are continuing our partnering with Ramsey County Master Gardeners to provide garden training and skill building opportunities, but we're trying something a little different this year for the Garden Mentor Program. Ramsey County Master Gardeners will offer up to 2 garden classes at each Hi Rise. Each class will include hands on learning activities and prizes!

- Class #1 'Get Growing Vegetables and Herbs' will be offered at every site. Class #1 will be scheduled in March and April.
- Class #2 – This class topic will be selected by participants in Class #1. Class #2 will be scheduled April – June.

Books for your Hi Rise Library – Cleveland Hi Rise donated several boxes of books they recently received from a nearby bookstore. If your Hi Rise would like some new books for the library – please contact Betsy.

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

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator thanked the resident councils for helping to ensure that the first audit is a success. She also thanked the resident councils for sending in their 2022 picnic forms, picnic receipts and for the return of unused picnic funds to the Presidents Council. The first portion of the PHA/RPC funds has been released and the resident councils should be receiving them soon. Please do not wait, but deposit these funds right away.

Youa Thao reported that Section 8 has donated a five dollar Starbucks gift card to the Presidents Council. Among the hi-rises represented here today, a hi-rise will be chosen by the spin of a wheel to receive the gift card. The winning hi-rise can use the card in a drawing at a resident council meeting. The wheel was spun and Edgerton hi-rise was the winner for the gift card.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Submitted by:

Aado Perandi
PC/RPC Secretary

MEETING REMINDERS:

(Meeting through Zoom)

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, February 27, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, February 17 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, February 24 @ 1:00 p.m.