

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Melanie Fox, Montreal, Chairperson, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and took a roll call of hi-rise Representatives present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, stated you can always find a copy of the Minutes on the PC website. He also reminded 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. Yasmine Aminou, Central, made a Motion to accept the January Minutes as they stand. Camille Gunderson, Neill, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Melissa Gibbs, Wilder Foundation with Betsy Christensen, PHA Health Improvement Program (HIP) Coordinator. Betsy Christensen stated Melissa Gibbs is from the Wilder Foundation which has been a supporter of the Diabetes Classes that have been hosted in past years through the Ramsey County Public Health Department's SHIP Grant. Since we are not able to meet in person due to the pandemic, The Wilder Foundation has crafted some new ways to bring these classes to the community.

Melissa Gibbs said that because the in-person Diabetes Classes had to abruptly stop, Wilder is now offering a few programs under the Chronic Disease Self-Management Education, so they are able to offer three different versions of the Classes, which are Living Well With Chronic Diseases, Living Well With Diabetes and Living Well With Chronic Pain. These are six week classes which previously took place in the Community Rooms of the hi-rises and lasted approximately two and a half hours. The Classes are now offered virtually on-line and also through a telephone version. The point of Melissa Gibbs being here is to see if there is still interest in these Classes and if people wanted to get them going again. Reference books are provided for the classes and will be sent out through the mail. She then opened the floor for discussion and questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for the month of January. The cleared balance is sixty-seven thousand two hundred ninety-three dollars and five cents (\$67,293.05). The ending balance is sixty-one thousand nine hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents (\$61,933.33). The report will be filed for audit. Melissa took questions.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager / Maintenance Contracts, gave an update on construction projects that are going on throughout the hi-rises:

1. The Front plumbing project is moving along and there will be a boiler shut down tomorrow to replace heating valves there.
2. The Cleveland elevator work continues. The work on the number one cab is completed and they're now working on the second cab. Completion should be mid-March.
3. The air conditioning work at Ravoux has been completed and will be tested when the weather is warmer.
4. Work continues on the Neill fire alarm project and is nearly complete. Testing also took place.

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director, stated that as of last Tuesday they have started doing all Work Orders (WOs) in all of the hi-rises. Maintenance staff will be knocking on doors making sure everybody is comfortable having them come in and reminded everyone that they should be wearing face masks and maintaining social distancing. There is a big back log of WO's and additional WO's are being called in and they're trying to get to them as quickly as possible.

As a reminder to everybody regarding the extremely cold weather we've had these last couple weeks, ensure that your air conditioning covers are installed and fitting snugly. There have been a couple of freeze-ups this past week, which makes it hard on everyone in the building if they have to shut down heating lines to make repairs.

Preventative maintenance and pest control checks will begin soon. They're still working on the scheduling for that and you should hear from your Managers when it will begin. Maintenance opened the floor for questions.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Tara Johnson, Resident Services Senior Manager, said she's mainly here today to answer any questions Representatives may have, but did state that they are not resuming annual inspections at this time, with the exception of fire inspections or something related to health and safety. She proceeded to answer any questions.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit, spoke about the following:

- We are all concerned about the drastic increase in armed robberies and car hijackings. These are happening throughout the metro area and are not specific to St. Paul; and they are happening in broad daylight. The suspects have been in their mid to late teens and most of them are driving stolen cars as their get-a-way vehicles, which makes it harder to identify the suspects. They appear to be traveling in packs of 2-4 suspects. Some victims believe they may have been followed by the suspect vehicle for at least a few blocks before the incident takes place. Please be alert and try to pay attention to who may be behind you as you are getting close to home. If you feel you're being followed, **DO NOT** drive home! Instead call 911. Continue to drive to a well-lit and populated area (police station/gas station, etc.) where you would have some potential witnesses that could help you. And remember, please do not be talking on your phone as you are walking to and from your vehicle and/or home. Those distractions can make you a easier target. Stay on alert to your surroundings.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT *(continued)*

- Auto thefts are also on the rise. The majority of them are taking place while the vehicles are warming up while the keys left the ignition. Please stay inside your vehicle while it is warming up.
- Catalytic Converter thefts are still an issue. The price of the metal that they contain is at an all-time high which is why they have become a big target. Encourage everyone to call 911 if they see vehicles and/or people loitering in the parking lots or in the buildings.
- Sgt. Boyer has been working with Patty Lammers, Crime Prevention Coordinator, our Community Engagement Specialists and site Managers to schedule a personal safety presentation for each building. These meetings will be via zoom and separate from the resident council meetings. She then took questions.

If you need further information regarding ACOP, or have any questions regarding policing activities, contact Sgt. Boyer at **651-558-2305**, or email her at Any.Boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

In addition, if you're in need of information regarding Covid-19, the Minnesota Department of Health has a Covid-19 hotline number which is **651-201-3920**. It's open from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

OLD BUSINESS

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator addressed the following:

1. 2021 Officer Recognition Event. After much discussion, in addition to the Wilder Foundation's social distancing rules due to the pandemic, it was decided that the event will be canceled this year. Dennis Loudon, Edgerton, made a Motion that the Officer Recognition Event be cancelled for 2021. The Motion was seconded by Yasmine Aminou, Central, and was carried.
2. Vendor's Fair for 2021. There is a Vendor's Fair scheduled for Friday, February 26th at 2:00 p.m. Flyers were sent out to all hi-rise Managers for posting. The Fair is optional and is open to all residents and officers that are interested and will be held virtually through Zoom. Each hi-rise Representative was given the opportunity to speak about whether they would attend or not. Vendor Contracts must be signed and returned by June 30th. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator will be sending Contract out to each hi-rise
3. Recruiting for Election Judges. Anyone interested in becoming an Election Judge should contact Youa Thao for an application. Last year there was no election and at that time Election Judge stipends were paid by the Presidents Council in the amount of \$15.00. They also received \$25.00 from each individual hi-rise for a total of \$40.00. However, for this year's election an increase was proposed that the PC pay each Election Judge \$25.00 and each hi-rise pay \$25.00, totaling \$50.00. Each hi-rise Representative was given the opportunity to offer input before a Motion was put forth before the PC for a vote on the increase. Camille Gunderson, Neill, made a Motion that the increase to \$25.00 from the PC be approved. The Motion was seconded by Dennis Loudon, Edgerton and the Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **QuickBook Peer Training**. It was proposed that there be a QuickBook (QB) training in March. A \$25.00 stipend would be paid to an experienced QB Peer, who would help to train new people in order to maintain a consistency in how the job is being done. There will also be a \$10.00 stipend for attending the training. Anyone interested in becoming a QB Peer, contact Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, so you can be included in the training. A Motion was made by Yasmine Aminou, Central, to approve a \$10.00 training stipend for all QB Peers and interested officers that will be attending the QB Training and also approve the \$25.00 stipend for one experienced QB Peer to train new people. The Motion was seconded by Jesse Thomas, Seal, and the Motion carried.
2. **Computer Administrator and New Computer Peer Training Stipend Proposals**. We have new Computer Administrator (CA) Peers at the hi-rises and it's proposed that we pay an experienced CA a \$25.00 stipend for training new people, and paying a \$10.00 stipend to new Computer Peers who accompany a well experienced Peer on an assignment. A Motion was made by Dennis Loudon, Edgerton, to approve paying experienced Computer Administrators a \$25.00 stipend to provide training to new CAs and also approve paying new Computer Peers a \$10.00 training stipend for accompanying an experienced Computer Peer on an assignment. The Motion was seconded by Jesse Thomas, Seal and the Motion carried.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Commissioner, gave an update on what took place at their January meeting, which included a request for 115 project based Section 8 vouchers by four different non-profits. The proposals were all approved. For further information, refer to the Board of Commissioners Minutes on the PHA website.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, was unable to attend this meeting and will give an update at our next meeting.

If you or someone you know is trying to find a job, obtain job skills, education, employment counseling; or if they just need more information on Section 3, they can contact Beth Pacunas at: **651-228-3204**, or email her at elizabeth.pacunas@stpha.org. She also now has a PHA phone number which is **651-252-5799** if you need assistance in the areas mentioned above. She will do the best she can to provide it. Also, keep an eye out for flyers and posters in your hi-rises as well. She then answered any questions.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, talked about Covid-19 testing and vaccinations. The PHA has been working with Open Cities to do Covid testing at all hi-rises, and much remains to be completed. Open Cities Clinic is working with hi-rise staff regarding testing. Approximately four weeks ago the PHA was contacted by St. Paul Ramsey County Public Health to inform us they were interested in doing three on-site vaccination clinics at the three hi-rises that have assisting living programs. Those include Valley, Hamline and Ravoux Hi-Rises. They will be starting with Valley Hi-Rise and on Friday, February 12th they hosted a Vaccination Clinic there. Alicia opened the floor for discussion and questions.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, wanted to check on the *Thank You Cards* that were distributed late last year and was curious to know how that was working out and if your site has used them up. She also would like to know if that's something we should look at in the future if more funds are available.

Regarding Covid-19, she is working on getting some materials from the County and the State that can be posted at your sites and she'll get those out as soon as possible. She also said they're working with the County regarding getting the vaccines to all hi-rises, but at this time nothing has been decided.

Open Cities Health Center has a Vaccination Clinic which is open to anyone who is sixty-five years of age or older, but you must call and schedule an appointment first, as they do not accept walk-ins. The Clinic is located on Rice Street in St. Paul. The phone number to call to schedule an appointment is **651-251-5967**. This information will also be going out in every rent statement in March. Also, if anyone in your building needs a face mask, reach out to your Manager or HSC Coordinator. Double masking also provides more protection against the virus.

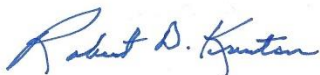
If you would like more information regarding Covid-19, there is a vaccine handout from the Minnesota Department of Health online at www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine/basicsfs.pdf. There is also a website for Ramsey County Covid-19 Resources at www.ramseycounty.us/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-information.

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator, discussed check-signers. She wants to remind everyone that ideally there should be -- at a minimum -- three check-signers at all of the sites. However, due to the pandemic and the difficulty in obtaining three signers at some hi-rises, Peer Advisors, who are taking on roles as officers can become check-signers in addition to two other resident council board officers. If there are any hi-rises that only have two check-signers, it's important that you reach out to Youa Thao as soon as possible. Youa then answered any questions.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson
PC/RPC Secretary
Peetiebird2@gmail.com

MEETING REMINDERS:

Newsletter Committee Team Meeting: Thursday, March 4 @ 3:00 p.m.

Quickbook Peer Meeting: Thursday, March 11 @ 2:00 p.m.

Resident Participation Committee Meeting: March 12 @ 10:00 a.m.

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, March 12 @ 11:00 a.m.

Election Judge Meeting: Thursday, March 18 @ 2:00 p.m.

Next Presidents Council Zoom Meeting: Monday, March 22 @10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, March 25 @ 1:30 p.m.