

Presidents Council Minutes

3/23/15

**Take back to your councils:
Schedule a time to have your new
computer installed.
Get your picnic date to Eileen ASAP**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Mary Peterson from Wilson Hi-Rise. Hi-rise representatives, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Keith Draz, Tim Angaran, BettyLou Authier, Anne Tranvik, Aaron Smothers, Jon Gutzman, Alicia Huckleby, Mai Moua, Ron Moen, Al Hester, Beth Pacunas, Charisse Brown, Betsy Christianson

Secretary's Report

The minutes from January had been sent out. PC Secretary Melissa Pappas called for a motion to accept them. Connie Lydon Made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out. Cathy Hicks seconded. Motion Carried.

Executive Director

Jon Gutzman spoke about several things. The first was the end of in person rent payments. There will be a notice about that in the next rent statement. In person payments will still end on June 1st. After that date you can pay by mail. The mail payments will go to the bank directly and your account will be credited when the payment is received. There also will be an option for online payment. A link to pay rent will be put on the main page of the PHA site. You will have to set up an account with username and password to pay online. A tutorial for this can be made up. The PHA is using US Bank Easypay Express for this. Online payments will deduct the

rent amount from your bank account. You will not be able to use debit and credit cards for this.

The exception for in person payments is for individuals paying to avoid eviction.

Grace period and late fees will not change.

Visitor parking:

Starting in mid May the visitor parking lot will be closed to visitors.

Presidents Council members and Peers will get access cards for the lot.

(Board of Commissioners members will also get cards.)

There will likely be a limit of three cards per hi-rise. Cards could be distributed at the May luncheon.

Treasurer's Report

PC Treasurer Jesse Thomas gave the reports for January and February.

The bank balance right now is \$30,334.00

The RPC committee will be reviewing the budget in April. Any changes will be talked about at the meeting after that.

Guest Speakers

Katherine Barton from the Payne/Phalen Block Nurse program spoke first. She told about the services offered. They offer things like transportation to medical appointments and assistance with in home care. (Also healthcare advocacy and respite care.) services are free at this point.

A couple questions were asked of the group. The first was what would help improve the lives of seniors. Transportation and on home mobility assistance were suggested. Transportation should be dependable and get people to appointments on time. Companionship was suggested. This could be a weekly visit to talk to individuals who might be isolated. Help for those with mental health issues was suggested. There is still a stigma around those with mental illness and a lack of programs to help those individuals.

The second question was what would help seniors become servants to the community.

Asking them to help and letting them know about opportunities in their area were suggested. Having some benefit to the volunteers was mentioned.

That would encourage people to continue volunteering.

Leah Driscoll from Twin Cities Mobile Market then spoke. She talked a bit about what the market is. She then said that the market would be closed for two weeks for maintenance on the bus. It will not be at Valley on March 26th and April 2nd. It won't be at the Mt. Airy community center on March 27th and April 3rd. It also won't be at Iowa those two weeks.

If you spend \$5.00 with EBT or Snap you can get a \$5.00 gift card. This starts in April 22nd and goes through Oct. 31st. There is only one gift card per person no matter how much you spend.

They are working on getting more gluten free products. (There is gluten free bread now.)

Sherbet was asked about. That isn't stocked because the market is focused on making healthy good accessible.

Residents from any hi-rise can come and use the market.

Board of Commissioners Report

Mary Puente from Front hi-rise spoke.

General liability services and printing services contracts were approved. The 2015 capital fund budget was voted on and approved.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

Interim Manager Tim Angaran spoke.

A question was asked about hi-rise flagpoles and who is responsible for them. That will be looked into.

Washing machine installation is currently underway.

The laundry room vents at Central need cleaning out. Coinmach is supposed to clean vents twice per year. That will be checked on.

The backyard lights at Central need fixing.

A question was asked about the entry door time and daylight savings time. The system should update for that.

Replacing the light outside Seal hi-rise was asked about. There is still uncertainty about whose responsibility that is. Maintenance needs more information about that project.

There are temperature issues in some apartments at Hamline. People are cold on the second floor. Some repairs have already been made.

Neill still needs yard maintenance. That should be done before planting season. That will be looked into.

Heat registers at Wilson need vacuuming out.
There are still some water temperature issues late at night at Seal.

PHA Report

Charisse Brown spoke.

She introduced Mela Krick who will be supervising hi-rise managers.
There are issues with maintenance at Central. There are also problems there with the manager not being available.

A question was asked about getting signs in different languages. Should things be posted in multiple languages? Management should handle PHA signage.

A question was asked about dealing with smelling drugs in your building.
Continue notifying management of any issues.

Wi-Fi Project

Routers have been purchased. We still need to purchase security boxes and wiring has to be done.

Here is what the router and security enclosure look like:



The router will be mounted high on a wall at each site. This will help keep it secure and improve signal range.

Section 3

Beth Pacunas spoke about training opportunities.

Resident Initiatives Report

Alicia Huckleby spoke.

She talked about raised garden beds. They should be in place by mid May.

Hi-rises will be receiving four raised garden beds, tools, and a small shed.

Plants will also be provided. (Seeds and seedlings.)

Training for garden committees will take place on April 22nd. At least two committee members from each hi-rise should attend this.

The training will be at 555 Wabasha.

The PHA is looking into having beehives on top of the CAO building. There would likely be two or three hives placed. Honey could be given to residents and staff.

Thanks were given to Betsy Christianson, Mary Puente, and Antrinita Wright for nominating the SHIP team for a health improvement award.

SHIP Grant Report

Anne Tranvik and Betsy Christianson spoke.

Updates were given on their activities.

The deadline for signing up for the diabetes prevention classes is April 30th. These classes are for individuals who are pre-diabetic. They will help with lifestyle modification and weight loss. There are support groups for those who are already diabetic. (Those individuals can't take the above classes.)

Vendor rep training and elaboration takes place today after the Presidents Council meeting.

There is an option for having someone shop for you at the mobile market.

Betsy Christianson spoke about walking groups. She will be coming to April Residents Council meetings to talk about this.

There will be a lunch and learn after the April PC meeting that will focus on physical fitness.

There will be NiceRide tours again this summer. All sites near a station will have a tour. Tours will be in late May or early June. It's possible something can be worked out for the sites that don't have a station nearby.

Old Business

Computer Grant: The new computers have been purchased and are here. Installations can start next week. You will need to work with your computer administrator to decide on a place for the new computer. You also will need to get locks and cables to secure it. Small locks are suggested since the loop on the computer back isn't very large.

Installation appointments can be scheduled online, over the phone, by email or in person. Online reservations can be made at <http://computer.geek.setmore.com/services>. Emails can go to mpappas@sealhirise.com. Call 612-239-6517 or 651-647-6365. Appointments will take at least two hours.

New Quickbooks software is going to be purchased.

New desks and chairs are also going to be purchased. There is not enough funding to purchase desks and chairs for all hi-rises.

Resident Council Coordinator

Eileen Tittle spoke about a number of things.

Peer Treasurers: There is a proposal being suggested that would overhaul how treasurers work. In a nutshell: The elected treasurer would still be responsible for all the hi-rise paperwork. This includes check writing, making deposits, paying bills. They would also give the monthly financial report.

A peer would handle all the Quickbooks work. They would also assist with budget preparation in August. They would review the Treasurer's book methyl to be sure everything is correct.

Obstacles to this are recruiting Quickbooks proficient volunteers to be the peers and finding funds to pay the stipends.

Feedback on this is encouraged. It will be voted on in April.

Picnic funding is being worked on. Picnic checks will be distributed in April or May. Eileen needs to know picnic dates ASAP.

Volunteer recognition was discussed. All residents should be invited to the recognition event. Buying gift cards for volunteers is discouraged.

Certificates and small gifts should be okay.

A reminder was given that volunteer recognition events can be reimbursed up to \$100.

New Business

Officers Recognition: A committee is needed to help plan this. Lorraine Waters, Jerline, Clark, Darlene Jackson, Mary Peterson, Melissa Pappas will help with this.

This is the May luncheon that they will be planning.

Ruby Steward spoke about the UN declaration that the next ten years will be African Heritage discovery time. This will be called International Decade.

Connie Lydon then spoke about council elections. Election notice must be posted in May a minimum of 30 days before the June meeting. A list of election judge assignments was handed out.

Meeting adjourned at 12:03PM

**Next meeting:
April 27th, 10:00AM**

Computer Team: April 16th, 1:30PM

Community Building: April 3rd, 9:30AM

Executive Board: April 17th 11:00AM

Peer Team: April 10th, 9:30AM

RPC Meeting: April 17th, 9:30AM

Let's Move Lunch and Learn: April 27th, 12:30-2:00