

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Leona Eishen, Wilson, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on March 27, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., after which introductions were made.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, asked that anyone finding discrepancies in the Minutes, bring it up at the next meeting. A Motion was made by *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, to accept the Minutes as they stand, which was seconded by *David Owens*, Mt. Airy. The Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of February. The checkbook register balance is thirty-nine thousand, seven hundred eleven dollars and ninety-six cents. (\$39,711.96). The ending balance is forty-three thousand, seven hundred eleven dollars and ninety-six cents (\$43,711.96). Due to a misunderstanding regarding uncleared checks, this month's Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit in April after additional discussion.

GUEST SPEAKER

Megan Gietsen, Community Health Educator for NAMI gave a brief overview of the resources that NAMI Minnesota offers for smoking cessation. They offer many different workshops, but she wants to focus on workshops that might be useful to residents. She also pointed out that they focus on people who are primarily dealing with mental illnesses, but their information can be useful to anyone. She spoke about what the workshops hope to achieve and then demonstrated a device that measures carbon monoxide in red blood cells. She demonstrated a *C02 Monitor* on two PC Representatives. *Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, put together a list of all the hi-rises, and asked Representatives to write the name of a contact person they can get in touch with before going to the hi-rises. *Megan Gietsen* passed out her business card and took questions.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mary Puente, Commissioner, Front, will give a Report at the next meeting.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Dave Lang, Maintenance Contracts Manager, said they are still waiting to hear from HUD what their final funding amount will be. He said funds were approved for elevators at some hi-rises and then answered questions.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, handed out information regarding *PHA Vehicle Registration and Permit Procedures*. She said the *PHA Parking Policy* was updated in 2012. She stated guests attending a reserved event at the buildings, *can* use the parking lots. She distributed a copy of the Policy to the Representatives. All PHA parking lots will be available to residents, staff and guest vehicles between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. She went on to address the issue of alcohol with regard to PHA properties.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT (continued)

Beverages containing any amount of alcohol are not permitted in any of the common areas of the buildings or on the PHA properties. She went on to address the issue of late recycling checks, and stated they've reached out to the recyclers, but haven't heard anything back from them yet. She wanted to clarify that the PHA is not responsible for the delay and they're going to keep working on it.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Keith Draz, Safety & Security Coordinator, stated that they finally arrested the burglary suspect, who's responsible not only for PHA burglaries, but also burglaries in other neighborhoods. Hopefully this will put to rest any concerns about everything this person was capable of doing, and has done. Keith went on to say that this Presidents Council Meeting will probably be the last he'll attend, but he wanted to thank everyone for the important jobs they're doing.

OLD BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said they ***need volunteers*** to help with the *Annual Recognition Event*. They also need Election Judges for the upcoming hi-rise elections. She has four volunteers but needs more. The Election Judges would attend hi-rise elections in April, May and June to ensure the elections go smoothly and are properly done. Election Judges receive a stipend of \$25.00 from the hi-rise they go to and \$15.00 from the Presidents Council. If anyone is interested in being a Judge, get in touch with Julia Hupperts. Training will be provided.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Hi Rise Resident Council Coordinator, handed out information packets to all Representatives, and wanted to remind us all about the upcoming Vendor Fair on April 6th, 10:00 a.m., at the Mt. Airy Community Center. She gave further particulars about the event and stressed that they're striving for healthier snacks and beverages. She talked about Contracts, and stated twelve vendors have been invited to attend. She also talked about the expansion of the *Twin Cities Mobile Market*. Starting April 5th, the TCMM will include stops at **Front Hi-Rise, Wednesday 2-3 p.m.** and **Seal Hi-Rise, Wednesday, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.**

Julia Hupperts, gave an update regarding the Door Prize Policy, which states: "Door prizes are allowed to be given as an incentive to attend meetings". The following rules apply:

- There can only be a limited number of winners.
- Proof of distribution is required (Disbursement Form).
- Suggested value is \$5.00. The maximum allowed is \$10.00 (checks preferred).
- Attendees receiving stipends for attending the meeting are not eligible for door prizes.

Melanie Fox, Montreal, raised the issue of Debit Cards for hi-rise councils. She said more and more stores are not taking checks, and many times that creates a problem with making council purchases. Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, stated she would address this in the Resident Initiatives Report.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Twin Cities Mobile Market: *Alicia Huckleby*, Resident Initiatives Director, talked about the Mobile Market, which is a converted city bus that sells healthy foods. She said for those who were not here when the PHA began working with the Wilder Foundation on the Mobile Market, sites were picked based on very specific requirements. At the time, Wilder was looking for sites that were located in what are called "food deserts"; areas that weren't within a mile of a large grocery store. They were also looking at sites that didn't already have some kind of food delivery service. We started off with four sites, which expanded to seven, and Wilder stated that when they get their second bus up and running, they would be able to add two additional sites. Front and Seal Hi-rises were the ones most in need of some sort of food delivery service. She asked that if anyone is at a site which has no food delivery service of any kind, please let her know.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT (continued)

Debit cards: Last fall, Jon Gutzmann, Executive Director, St. Paul Public Housing, asked if the councils used debit cards, which, at that time, weren't allowed under a different rule that prohibited them. As it's becoming more difficult for councils to do business with checks, debit cards are being considered. A list was compiled of stores which no longer accept checks, and it was given to Mr. Gutzmann as a request for debit cards. Draft procedures will be drawn up and implemented on how they would expect the councils to use the cards. Mr. Gutzmann approved the request, so they're going to be rolling out a new *Debit Credit Card Procedure*. She said we should plan on having copies of the draft procedures at our April meeting, so everyone can see what they look like, as well as be able to give their input on things that might need to be added.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator / Youth Literacy, had a quick update. They're going to be finishing their *Small Business Program* tomorrow night. Five people will be graduating from the 12-week program and will be moving on to start a small business of their own. She'll keep us updated.

ROSS TEAM

Ed Petsche and *Val Wolf*, ROSS Employment & Educational Coordinators. Ed stated they will be doing their first mini job fair at Central Hi-Rise April 6th, and they're hoping for a nice turnout. Flyers will go up ahead of the fair. He said they will be continuing the *Budget Classes* at sites they haven't been to yet. Val says there are a lot of jobs at the stadiums with all the summer sports going on, so they're hoping to get connected with some of those people that do the hiring for that, and see if they can come to some of the Job Fairs. If you or somebody you know is interested in finding a job, Ed Petsche can be reached at **651-298-4931**, and Val Wolf at **651-298-4933**.

COMPUTER UPDATE

Aaron Smothers, IT Digital Literacy Coordinator, gave an update on the progress with *Faronics*; he said the installation is going good, and he would like all the sites that haven't done the survey yet, to please complete it and get it back to him as soon as possible. Having that information is important for maintaining the computers and configuring them for each individual hi-rise. He's hoping to be done with all of the sites by the end of this month. He then answered questions.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE PHA SHIP Coordinator

Ann Tranvik, St. Paul Public Health Nurse, stated the NAMI Workshop with the CO2 monitoring, and one to one interaction they would do, is available between now and June 15th. If you would like to set this up at your hi-rise, you should get it on your Agendas to talk about it at your council meetings. NAMI is willing to come Monday thru Friday, and they will do evenings if needed, but prefer not to do weekends. If you want to set this up, give Ann Tranvik a call at **651-266-2509**. She then talked about interpreters and said if there is anyone who needs an interpreter for these workshops -- and requests one -- there are funds available through SHIP to pay for that.

Ann Tranvik for *Betsy Christensen*, PHA SHIP Coordinator. *Active Living*. Ann handed out a flyer regarding the *Walk with a Doc* event. It's in its third year and has been rotating around to all the different hi-rises, as well as family sites. If your site's not on the list this time around, it could be that maybe you had it last year and it's now rotated onto another site. It kicks off in May at Ravoux, and flyers and information will be made available.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE PHA SHIP Coordinator (continued)

The other *Active Living* piece is *BoneBuilders*, which has been active with the PHA for several years. It's been at three sites: Hamline, Ravoux and Mt. Airy. *BoneBuilders* is a mild exercise program to build healthy bone and muscle. Ann passed around a sign-up sheet for anyone interested. Once they receive the filled-out sheets, they work with Volunteers of America, who arranges for the volunteer group facilitators, and see if she can match a volunteer facilitator with your site. But it's very important for them to know who's interested and will attend. The exercises are very gentle and you work at your own pace.

Updates on Healthy Eating – Seal Hi-Rise is going to start having a four-week long series with Snap Ed, which will be an hour and a half long. These are free classes that any hi-rise is eligible for. Extension is also trying something different. If a site is not sure they want to have a Snap Ed class, but they're interested, Snap Ed will do a two-hour one-time Intro.

GREEN INITIATIVES

Yen Tran, Green Initiatives Technician will update us at our next meeting. Yen Tran's business cards – with her contact information – are available by the window.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said everyone can find information in their folders about the *Volunteer Appreciation Event*. The *Volunteer Appreciation Event* is your opportunity to have an event at your hi-rise, where you appreciate *all* the residents who have volunteered, which includes individuals you know about, and those you don't. Many residents pick up trash anonymously, even though it isn't theirs, and do other things that make their community a nicer place. It must be a stand-alone event; it can't be combined with a picnic or any other event, and it has to be open to everyone in your hi-rise.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson,
PC/RPC Secretary

Meeting Reminders:

Next Presidents Council Meeting: Monday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Executive Committee: April 14th, 2017, 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Building: April 7th, 10:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Computer Team: April 20th, 1:30 p.m. – Board Room.

Vendor Fair: April 6th, 10:00 a.m., Mt. Airy Community Center