

## Presidents Council Minutes 4/28/14

### **Take back to your Resident Councils: Turn in HAFA surveys if you have not done so**

#### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:05AM by Lisa Lee from Wilson hi-rise. Hi-rise representatives, PHA staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Alicia Huckleby, Keith Draz, Kim Nguyen, Dave Lang, Ann Tranvik, Jon Gutzman, Beth Pacunas, The Hamline hi-rise walking club were guests at this meeting.

#### **Secretary's report**

Copies of the minutes from March 24th were sent out. There were no changes or additions. Cathy Hicks made a motion to accept the minutes. Marlys Zerahn seconded. Motion carried.

#### **Safety and Security Report**

Keith Draz spoke.

The OIR program was the first topic. All OIR officers eventually get a squad car to park outside the buildings. Sometimes there is a delay in getting a car for new officers.

Having the officer see people in the council office or somewhere more private than the community room at Exchange was suggested. His hours there are during the lunchtime and some people might not want to talk with others around.

It is preferred that the officers meet people in the community room so they are available to everyone.

There will be a new OIR at Montreal starting June 1st. (Officer Newicki). Every other site is filled except Edgerton.

The recent TV theft at Mt. Airy was asked about. That is being investigated. Hopefully that can be resolved. There is a good chance of recovering the TV.

This underscores how important it is to keep serial numbers and pictures of valuable items like TVs. Those can be helpful in case of a theft or insurance claim.

Metro Transit would need to be contacted if a building wanted a light rail safety presentation. A-Cop is not involved in that.

Vandalization of bulletin boards was mentioned. If that happens you should let the manager know.

The issue of residents who have a permit to carry a firearm was mentioned. It is legal for residents to own a gun and to carry it if they have the correct permit.

People with guns still need to follow safe firearm guidelines. This includes carrying the gun safely. A holster is not required by law. (It is encouraged though.) You can also carry more than one gun.

Someone with a permit to carry can be violated on that if they are carrying while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The alcohol concentration has to be .04 or higher before the police can do that though.

A question was raised about mentally unstable individuals with weapons. Those types of people can't get permits if they have been in a state hospital or care program.

Security screening measures for residents were asked about. There isn't any way to know that someone owns a gun in advance.

It **is not** up to the residents council to ask residents if they have a permit or a weapon. If there are concerns you should talk to the manager.

Banning guns was questioned. Hi-rises cannot ban guns that are legally carried. It is only a lease violation if the person does not have a permit or does not follow safe firearm guidelines.

Jon Gutzman reiterated what was said about banning guns. Other Public Housing authorities have tried to fight this rule and lost.

A reminder was given to be careful of tax related scams. Do not give personal information over the phone. The IRS will also not ask for information in an email.

If you have a question about something you receive in an email or by regular mail you should talk to your Human Services coordinator about it.

### **Treasurer's report**

Jesse Thomas gave the reports for March

The report will be filed for audit.

The final part of the PHA Grant funds was handed out.

Special call grant funds need to be spent by May 30th. Information about how much hi-rises have left to spend will be forthcoming.

Midterm audits will be gone over soon. Treasurers will receive a letter detailing what they need to do yet.

### **Hamline walkers**

The Hamline walking club introduced themselves. They talked about what they are doing to stay healthy and have fun.

They just did a walk to raise money for the March of Dimes. Everyone who participated had a good time.

A question was raised about costs for a walking group. There are really none to speak of.

They were asked if they would like to be featured in the next issue of the Community Insider. They liked that idea and will discuss that more with the committee.

The importance of encouraging each other was mentioned. Support is a very important part of any exercise program.



## **PHA Board of Commissioners**

Mary Puente gave the report.

The sale of land by Valley hi- rise was discussed. Jon Gutzman presented that sale at the last RAB meeting.

Upgrades to the human resources system and workers compensation were approved as were some improvements at Mt. Airy.

## **SHIP Grant**

Anne Tranvik spoke.

A reminder was given to turn in HAFA market surveys if you have not already done so.

Gardens were discussed again. Gardens will be done at Hamline and Ravoux again,

Diabetes awareness presentations were done at Seal, Neill, and Iowa in March. They went well.

Healthy eating presentations were done at Wabasha, Cleveland, and one other site.

Walking was mentioned again. Walking as a group is a good bonding experience and makes people feel better.

BoneBuilders is still going on at Hamline, Ravoux, and Mt. Airy. The Mt. Airy class needs more participants. There is interest in a class at Iowa. There needs to be a group of at least six people to have a class at your site.

NiceRide bikes are now out.

There will be tours again in June. They will be happening at the sites nearest to NiceRide stations. NiceRide members now get a free hour of use instead of a half hour.

The Ravoux exercise room is now ready.

## **Ross Grant Update**

Service Coordinator Beth Pacunas spoke.

Computer admins:

The computer administrator 'job description' was handed out.

Basically we need someone who can assist residents with using the computers and keep those computers running in cooperation with the computer team. This also includes some maintenance like updated and virus scans. Training will be available for interested admins.

Stipends were asked about. At this point it is up to the individual resident councils if they want to give admins a stipend. Some have already done that.

The Dunedin family center computer lab was asked about. They are still looking for volunteers there.

So far Dunedin, Ravoux, Edgerton, Iowa, Cleveland, Valley do not have admins. (Neill also, possibly)

The importance of having a computer admin was stressed.

The One Day on Earth shooting went well. Elette Taylor from Exchange was filmed as was Bob Williams from Cleveland. The Allina shoe giveaway was also filmed. The footage will be organized and cut together and eventually will be ready to be shown to the Presidents Council.

### **Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts**

Dave Lang spoke about planned improvements. There will be outside work at Dunedin and Ravoux. There will be a new Ravoux, window replacements at Hamline and Seal, new roof and mailbox locks at Neill, new windowsills at Front, fence replacement at Central, and curb and parking lot work at Mt. Airy.

A question was asked about the new hallway wall color at Seal. There have been complaints about it. There were supposed to have been options presented to the resident council but that didn't happen.

A question was raised about why old community was destroyed rather than donated somewhere. Dave will look into that.

The door paddle on the men's room at Hamline still needs replacing. The one on the women's room only opens the door partway. A work order should be put in for this. (If one has, it will be checked on and details added as needed.)

A question was raised about the back wall at Exchange. Bricks are buckling there now. Bolts are also missing from there. A consultant will be hired to take a look at that. It will probably not be fixed until next year.

The kitchen at Iowa was mentioned. Whether that should be expanded hasn't been decided on yet. A lot of remodeling would need to be done to keep it up to code.

The kitchen at Mt. Airy needs fixing.

One of the outside lights at Dunedin was knocked down. It now has exposed wires. There is another one down that is covered.

### **PHA management report**

Kim Nguyen gave the report.

Fire safety will be discussed at May Resident Council meetings.

The hit weather policy was discussed. If it is 85 degrees or higher at 4PM the community room will be open 24hours so people can cool off if needed.

You should speak to the manager before buying an air conditioner. Only certain types are allowed. Maintenance needs to look at the unit after it is installed to be sure everything has been done correctly.

Garden requests were discussed. If a hi- rise would like a garden a written request needs to be submitted to management. The request needs to include the size of the proposed garden, the place it will be, and who will be in charge of maintaining it. You should receive a response within 30 days of submitting a request.

Existing gardens should be fine. This procedure is for non-SHIP sites.

Anne Tranvik is willing to consult with any hi- rise that would like to put in a garden. She also has information on raised bed gardens.

[anne.tranvik@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:anne.tranvik@co.ramsey.mn.us)

651-266-2509

PHAS inspections will be happening from June 9th to June 20th. A random selection of apartments will be inspected. All buildings will be inspected except Dunedin, Montreal, and Cleveland.

Call in all work order issues before these inspections. There will be notice in advance if your apartment could be inspected.

### **Resident Initiatives**

Alicia Huckleby spoke.

The Resident Initiatives team made a presentation at the last board meeting. There was a good response to that presentation. It's possible we could see it at a future Presidents Council meeting.

The HAFA markets were then discussed. The CSA model is still being refined. Additional information and sign up forms will be distributed soon.

**Remember, if there are not 20 people signed up at a site there will not be distribution there.**

Concerns raised by the survey included whether or not EBT cards would be accepted, lack of choice in packages, lack of fruit available. ( It seems that lack of choice is a big issue.) Another issue is that you have to be there when packages are delivered.

Surveys are still needed in Russian and Vietnamese. That is being worked on.

Grants have been applied for (General Mills Foundation grant) to help subsidize nutrition programs. We should hear whether or not we got the funds later this month.

A round of applause was given to the Hamline walkers. ( They were featured in the presentation to the board too.)

**Community building**

Healthy vending:

Vendor rep training will be held on April 29th from 1:00 to 2:30PM. It will be in room 104.

Vendor rep names and contact information should be sent to the Presidents Council. They can be sent by inter office mail through the manager or mailed to Presidents Council, 555 Wabasha St. N. Suite 400, Saint Paul, MN 55102

A reminder was given that hi- rises should be getting a monthly statement from their vendors. A few vendors don't do that, unfortunately.

Ruby Steward spoke about the newsletter.

The first issue of the Community Insider newsletter has been distributed.

(They were sent to the housing managers.)

The newsletter email address is [insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:insider@stphapresidentscouncil.org).

The Editor's address is [editor@stphapresidentscouncil.org](mailto:editor@stphapresidentscouncil.org)

Submissions can also be sent by regular mail.

**Old Business**

Election concerns were asked for.

There was an issue with vandalization of the bulletin board at Valley.

PA systems cannot be used for announcing meetings. They are for emergency announcements only.

That is an issue because that was done at Central in the past. Putting notices on everyone's door was suggested.

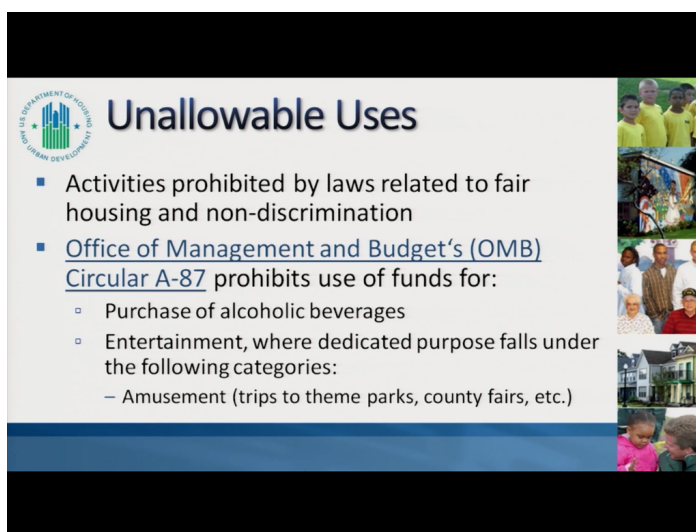
## **New Business**

If you haven't watched this video about spending PHA and RPC funds you should check it out.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKpl\\_yAFhWO](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKpl_yAFhWO)

Images of slides from that presentation are available on our site.

Here is one image:



Annual recognition event:

Karen Arnold spoke about this.

The event will be on June 2nd. It will be at the Wellstone Center again and run from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

The proposed cost is \$15.00 per person.

This should come out of hi- rise funds.

PHA is no longer paying the cost of interpreters. If you need one for the May or June meetings you should still request one from management. The presidents Council will foot the bill for these interpreters.

Year end audits will be done by our CPA. Treasurers will be getting a reminder of what needs to be done to get their books in order before then. The audits will be likely done in July.



Please remember to post the Presidents Council minutes at your hi- rises.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20PM

**Next meeting: June 2nd**