

Presidents Council Minutes

4/27/15

Take back to your councils:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Lisa Lee from Wilson Hi-Rise. Hi-rise representatives, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Staff in attendance: Keith Draz, Tim Angaran, BettyLou Authier, Anne Tranvik, Nina Semmelroth, AZ Jones, Dave Lang, Alicia Huckleby

Secretary's Report

The minutes from last month 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. Yasmine Aminou seconded. Motion Carried.

Saint Paul Farmer's Market

Nancy Allen spoke about the matching market bucks program. With every \$5 you spend using EBT you get \$5 in market bucks. Market bucks can be used at any location that accepts EBT. Market tokens can only be used at the market you got them at.

There will be a market every Tuesday in 7th Place Plaza.

A question was raised about how to tell which markets take EBT. 11 of the markets in the area take EBT cards.

There will be free LRT/Transit passes every Saturday through October 17th. A link for this will be put on the PC site so it is easy to find. Passes will be good from 5:30AM to 1:30PM. You can get on the bus or train to the market from any location.

<http://www.stpaulfarmersmarket.com> is the market website.

Treasurer's Report

PC Treasurer Jesse Thomas gave the report for March.
Recycling and picnic checks have been distributed.
The bank balance right now is \$36,741.35

Board of Commissioners Report

Mary Puente gave the report.
The Section 8 operating budget, the SRO Expense Budget, and the PHA building fund operating budget, and the A-Cop budgets were approved. An increase in the Executive Director's salary was also approved.
This is the 25th year the A-Cop program has been in operation.

Maintenance and Maintenance Contracts

Interim Manager Tim Angaran spoke.

Issues:

No hot water going to the washing machines at Exchange. (Water coming out of the pipes is hot but it is cold coming into the machines.)

There are also problems with the washers at Central. Their machines aren't using enough water it seems.

A Coinmach rep will be going to Resident Council meetings to answer questions and teach how to use the new machines.

Coinmach is responsible for cleaning the dryer vents twice a year.

The backyard lights at Central aren't working.

A question was raised about getting a new outside light at Seal. Who is responsible for hiring the contractor for that is still being looked into.

There are issues with the washers at Hamline. There also is a resident who has had an issue with her sink dripping for months.

There are still issues with cold apartments at Hamline too.

There is an issue with noise from the heaters at Ravoux. They are working on valve and thermostat replacements to try to fix that.

A question was raised about vent cleaning and drain cleaning. Dirty vents are causing some dust issues at Central.

There are some bad mailbox locks at Neill. New locks will be tested at three buildings in the near future.

Dave Lang spoke about Capitol improvements. Neill will be getting a new roof. Brick work will be done at Dunedin. Front's elevators will be modernized. Ravoux and Exchange will have roof work done as will Hamline. Edgerton will have some lighting improvements done. Start dates for some of this work are yet to be determined.

PHA Report

Charisse Brown, Principal Housing Manager gave the report. A reminder was given that in person rent payments would not be accepted after June 1st. You should talk to your manager if you have any questions. The online payment system should be live by the end of May.

Going forward you will need an access card to park in the visitors lot. This will go in effect in mid-May.

Each hi-rise will get two cards which will be kept locked in the council office at each site. Those cards can be used for things like going to Presidents Council meetings.

Thanks were given for having the OIR program.

Safety and Security Report

Keith Draz spoke.

Ross Grant Update

AZ Jones spoke about the renewal of the Ross Grant Program. The latest application for Ross Grant funding has been approved. This funding will be shared between the Presidents Council and the Citywide Residents Council. This new grant will last for three years. We will be receiving \$724,000 in funding.

An implementation team consisting of three hi-rise residents and three residents from the family sites will be put together. Once that is done then service coordinators will be hired.

Waste Wise Program

Program Coordinator Mike Weitekamp spoke.

He talked about ways to improve recycling in the hi-rises. Recycling coordinators at all the hi-rises have been spoken to. What is working with

the program and what isn't were discussed. A report on the findings is being drawn up.

Better labeling for the recycling bins would be helpful. This would be especially good for those with limited English. Signs with pictures would be especially helpful. Eureka Recycling also has signs in various languages. Handouts about recycling might also be helpful. Those can help get residents engaged and excited about the program.

Increasing knowledge about recycling funds is a good thing. Residents should know that there is a monetary benefit to recycling.

Talking about the recycling program at council meetings was suggested. Education about electronics recycling would be very helpful. Electronics recycling drop-offs at some of the hi-rises are being worked on. Eventually there could be similar events at all the hi-rises.

Events would be once yearly. The truck would be at the site for a half day or so.

The charge for electronics recycling is because of the cost of dealing with the heavy metals in those items. (Also costs of transportation and disposal.)

There are issues with people stealing recyclables at some of the human-rises. (Things like aluminum are common theft targets.)

A question was raised about plastic bag recycling.

Plastic bags should not be put with the recycling. Dirty bags should be thrown in the garbage.

Bags can be recycled at stores like Walmart, Target, Rainbow, Cub. (There should be a receptacle in the entrance area.)

A question was asked about having a shredding truck come to the human-rises. That can be looked into.

Resident Initiatives Report

Alicia Huckleby and Yen Tran spoke.

Raised bed gardens:

Setup will start on the 30th. Volunteers from the Conservation Corps will help with setup of garden beds and sheds. Setup should take 30 minutes to one hour.

Iowa, Edgerton, Mt. Airy are the first sites to be done. Seal, Front, and Central will also be done on the 30th.

The next setup date will be May 7th.

Garden tools are forthcoming. Dunedin family site will also be getting raised garden beds.

Getting more raised garden beds was asked about. Right now the four beds are the limit. They want to see how this season goes first. Getting additional beds is possible in a couple seasons if things go well with these.

Allina Health Grant:

We have the option to apply for up to \$10,000 from Allina Health. They are focusing on healthy activities this time. We are already doing a number of the activities they are looking for.

Some of these funds could be used for an exercise room at another site or two. Activities are meant to be self sustaining. This means that things like broken exercise equipment are up to the hi-rise Resident Council to fix or replace.

Equipment for yoga and walking clubs was mentioned.

Jerline Clark made a motion to apply for the Allina Health grant. Yasmine Aminou seconded. Motion carried.

There now are beehives on the roof of 555 Wabasha. No one can go up and see the hives because of liability concerns. Honey will be given to residents in some form. Hopefully we will be able to make a profit from the honey in a couple years. Funds would be used for the PHA scholarship fund.

Safety and Security Report

Safety and Security Coordinator Keith Draz spoke.

Residents threatening staff was discussed. There have been incidents of that recently. A reminder was given that swearing at staff and doing things like sending multiple emails or making multiple harassing phone calls is not good and won't be tolerated. In person harassment also isn't good.

A reminder was given to think of everything you have and to treat staff with respect. (And remember that they are human too and make mistakes on occasion.) tolerance and respect are Important. (Those are important between residents too.)

There are parking lot issues at a number of sites. The OIR at Seal had the tires stolen from her truck recently. There have also been other auto theft issues. Be extra careful about leaving valuables in your car since theft seems to increase in the warmer weather.

A reminder was given to report suspicious activity seen in the parking lot area or in the building in general.

Celebrating the 25th year of A-Cop was mentioned. Doing something for the officers is something worth considering. Letting your OIR know when the summer picnic is so they can attend if they'd like was suggested.

SHIP Grant Report

Anne Tranvik and Betsy Christianson spoke.

They updated on their activities.

A reminder was given to get the word out about the farmer's markets taking EBT. The markets open on June 9th. Having the EBT machines at the markets is being done on a trial basis this year. If there is enough demand it will likely be continued.

Diabetes prevention:

There has been good participation in the various programs being offered. Metro State and Open Cities thought the programs were worthwhile. There is still an ongoing diabetes support group at Open Cities.

Enrollment for the diabetes prevention class ends this week. This class is just for pre-diabetics.

Twin Cities Mobile Markets:

Hamline will be added as one of their stops. Their hours will be changing slightly. Posters with the new schedule will be sent out.

<http://www.twincitiesmobilemarket.org> is their website.

The Markets will be offering Bonus bucks when you purchase produce using an EBT card. (You get \$5 you can use for anything at the Market.)

A comment was made that it isn't fair for those without EBT.

The program is done this way to be sure people in need get the benefits.

Options for those without EBT could be looked into.

PHA was nominated for a Commuter Choice award from Metro Transit. We were nominated because of things like walking groups and bike giveaways.

There will be a lunch and learn after this meeting. The topic is let's move more. Why does activity benefit your health and how can we help each other move a bit more each day.

Betsy has gone to most of the Resident Council meetings to talk about walking clubs and biking. She will be going to the hi-rises she hasn't been to in May.

There is a 'Biking in Minnesota' photo contest going on. Photos from a number of biking related activities might be submitted for that.

Old Business

Computer Grant: Seven hi-rises have had their new computers installed. Two more have appointments scheduled. If your hi-rise hasn't scheduled an appointment for the install you need to do so. You can email mpappas@sealhirise.com, use the link on the main page of the PC site, or call 612-239-6517.

So far the installs are going smoothly.

If you need to buy locks for the new computers you should look for small ones since the security loop on the back of the computer is rather small.

Officers Recognition:

Information and an invitation to the event will be sent out.

The event will be held on May 26th and it will likely be held at the Wellstone Center.

Resident Council Coordinator

Eileen Tittle spoke about a number of things.

The first thing she discussed was the position of Presidents Council treasurer. Jesse Thomas will be stepping down in June. Melissa Pappas agreed to take the position.

Robin Clifford made a motion to appoint Melissa Pappas as PC Treasurer. Jerline Clark seconded. Motion carried.

We now need a secretary. Mary Puente agreed to do it temporarily at least.

The changes to the Resident Council treasurer position were discussed. Having peers do the Quickbooks portion of the work will make things easier and help prevent problems.

Connie Lydon will be the team leader on this project.

Peers will also help with getting the budget together in August.

Ravoux and Wilson got the prizes for returning the largest number of council guides. Going forward there will be two guides per board and one in the HSC's office.

Getting wiring done for the new routers is still being worked on. Aaron and PHA are working with an electrician on this. Things are moving forward on this project.

Meeting adjourned at 12:16PM

Next meeting: May 26th

Computer Team: May 21st, 1:30PM

Community Building: May 1st, 9:30AM

Executive Board: May 8th, 11:00AM

Peer Team: May 15th, 9:30AM