

# Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

**April 25, 2016**

## CALL TO ORDER

Connie Lydon, Neill Hi-Rise, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on April 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., after which everyone introduced themselves.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux Hi-Rise, stated the March Minutes need to be amended under the heading of **Old Business**, concerning Committee stipends. John Cardoza, Cleveland Hi-Rise, made a Motion to amend the Minutes to clarify the wording to read:

*“Regarding the Presidents Council and Presidents Council Committees, only one Representative from each hi-rise will receive a Stipend for attending the meetings. Also, the hi-rise Representative to the PHA Board of Commissioners is to receive a Stipend from the Presidents Council when a PHA Board of Commissioners Report is submitted at the Presidents Council Meeting. Also, given that the Commissioner is automatically a member of all Committees, they will receive a Stipend when attending such meetings. This is effective immediately.”*

Lisa Lee, Wilson Hi-Rise, seconded the Motion which was carried. Connie Lydon also stated a correction is needed in the **Closing** section of the February Minutes, wherein it was erroneously stated that Melanie Fox made a Motion that John Cardoza become a Presidents Council officer. Melanie Fox was the Chairperson for that meeting, and the Motion was made by Connie Lydon. All corrections were completed.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal Hi-Rise, presented the March Treasurer's Report. The current balance is six thousand, one hundred fifteen dollars and eighty-five cents (\$6,115.85). The Register balance is six thousand, four hundred eighty-six dollars and eighty five cents (\$6,486.85). The Report will be filed for audit. Julia Hupperts also added that the new Presidents Council Budget will be presented to the Presidents Council on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, PHA Resident Initiatives Director, gave an update on the presentations they've been conducting in the hi-rises regarding *Smoking Cessation*. She stated there are a couple of NAMI presentations left to do. Once the NAMI presentations have concluded, the Walgreen stores of St. Paul are going to do presentations at the hi-rises, that build on what's already been heard from NAMI. They are looking for visiting pharmacists who are bilingual, to reach as many people as possible, and will work with your Resident Council Representatives. They should start by early to mid-May and go through most of the summer. She then took questions.

## **RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT** *(continued)*

**Grant Opportunities:** In January we applied with The Presidents Council and *City Wide Residents Council* for an *Allina Health Neighborhood Health Connections Grant*, asking for \$8,000.00, but were not awarded that money. However, Allina has an open pipeline for Grant opportunities, meaning you can apply any time during the year for a Charitable Contributions Grant. She would like the Presidents Council to vote to apply for up to \$5,000 for activities in the areas of healthy eating and nutrition. Lisa Lee, Wilson Hi-Rise, made a Motion that the Presidents Council apply for the Grant, which was seconded by Cathy Hicks. The Motion was carried.

Alicia also spoke of another Grant opportunity through the Mayo Clinic, which is a Mayo Health Open Pipeline Grant of up to \$5,000. It could also be used for activities that promote health, wellness and community. Melanie Fox, Montreal Hi-Rise, made a Motion that we apply for the \$5,000.00 to have the *Artful Aging Program* at all of the hi-rises. John Cardoza , Cleveland Hi-Rise seconded the Motion and it was carried.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

*Mary Puente*, Commissioner, Front Hi-Rise, told us that at their last Executive Board Meeting, several Motions were approved; they include: The Low-Income Public Housing Operating Budget, the Building Fund, awarding a contract for the plumbing modernization at Ravoux Hi-Rise, and a contract for the Mt. Airy Homes exterior modernization. They also approved proceeding with office consolidation at Mt. Airy Hi-Rise and Mt. Airy Community Center.

## **MAINTENANCE REPORT**

*Dave Lang*, Maintenance Contracts Manager, said they will be starting the plumbing replacement at Ravoux Hi-Rise very soon. *Tim Angaran*, Interim Maintenance Senior Manager, took questions regarding issues in other hi-rises.

## **SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT**

*Keith Draz*, Safety & Security Coordinator, passed out a *Survey* to all Representatives, regarding the safety and security in their buildings. He asked that they be completed and then given to Julia Hupperts. He also needs to have the dates and times each hi-rise is having their Annual Picnic so he can schedule ACOP and Officers-In-Residence to attend them. He'd like that information as soon as possible. He spoke briefly about the *Safe Summer Nights* program; an event where the police come and meet people in their neighborhoods to have a picnic, entertainment and other activities. Keith said when he gets a schedule of the sites they're going to be at, he'll share that next month at the Presidents Council Meeting. If you have any problems or concerns about safety, give him a call at **651-558-2305**. If he's not there, leave a message; he returns all calls.

## **PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT**

*Stephanie Long*, Assistant Housing Manager, filling in for *Charisse Brown*, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, stated residents would be receiving a flyer along with their rent statements in May regarding Policy changes. The first change states there will be no rent increases based on earnings from new jobs for two years, due to the *Earned Income Disregard Program* that's already in place. The second Policy change is that the PHA is no longer going to formally verify assets that are less than \$5,000.00. And lastly, there is a change regarding family members who are not legal residents. They can still be housed; however, those particular household members will not receive a subsidy.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no Old Business at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Computer Policy:** *Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, said the Computer Team has been meeting on a monthly basis. It is comprised of Representatives who maintain the computers at each hi-rise. She said she has been speaking with someone who works with the *City Wide Council* and the *Family Resident Council*, to have a consistent Computer Policy for both family sites and hi-rises. It's still in the process and under discussion, but she wanted everyone to be aware that this will be presented to the Presidents Council at the September meeting.

## **ANNUAL RECOGNITION EVENT COMMITTEE**

*Cathy Hicks*, Valley Hi-Rise, said the Committee met last week. She said the room at the Wellstone Center is reserved and they had a discussion about food and beverages. A motion was made and carried to charge \$24.00 per person. The Presidents Council Meeting will be from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. May 23, and food will be available from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., after which the Recognition Program will take place from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. The Wellstone Center is located at 179 Robie Street East (near Dunedin Hi-Rise). She also said there will be another Committee Meeting tomorrow at 1:00 p.m., and invited anyone who would like to help to attend. Flyers for the event were handed out to be taken back to the Resident Council Boards. There isn't much time, so Officers are asked to RSVP as soon as possible to *Ruby Steward*, Financial Documents Coordinator, and send a check for all who will be attending. Make the checks payable to: *The Presidents Council*.

## **ROSS TEAM**

*Diane Anastos*, ROSS Grant Coordinator, reported that the Computer Labs at the family sites of Dunedin, McDonough, Mt. Airy and Roosevelt will have open Labs starting this week. Hi-rise residents are also welcome to attend.

*Ed Petsche*, ROSS Grant Coordinator, reminded everyone that they're still looking to do the *Budget Classes* in all the hi-rises. So far only Neill and Seal have had them. But he'll be contacting Resident Councils to schedule with them. They're also having a Job Fair this week at Roosevelt Community Center and flyers will be distributed to the hi-rises. They're also looking for people to work with them.

## SHIP GRANT UPDATES

Betsy Christensen, SHIP Coordinator, passed out a packet of resources. She said their first event, *Walk With A Doc*, will be Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. at Hamline Hi-Rise. She spoke about the information for the *American Diabetes Association* and their national *Get Fit Don't Fit Day* coming up Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. The main goal is to get people up and moving more. She gave a handout containing exercises that can be done sitting down, among other helpful suggestions. Translating the information was also discussed.

Ann Tranvik, Public Health Nurse: SHIP part two. She gave an update on the Diabetes Workshop. There was one pilot site at Ravoux Hi-Rise that has completed two weeks out of six. It was offered at no charge through *Stratus Health* and is for people who are diabetic, to help them manage their diabetes and is also open to pre-diabetics. The next subject was the *Cessation Workshops*, and she stated seventeen out of twenty workshops have been completed, and they've been very successful. She also added there was a Vending Representative meeting today at 12:30 p.m. Lastly, she wanted to let everyone know that the downtown (Lower Town) Farmer's Market will be opening April 30<sup>th</sup>. She also passed out new Directories. Ann went on to introduce two guest speakers from SNAP Ed:

Simone French, SNAP Ed Extension, said there is special funding to do pilot projects in three different communities, which will help them figure out how to create programming that takes advantage of the opportunities in the neighborhood. One of the pilots was done at Dunedin Hi-Rise and Family Sites, to work with the residents to develop ideas they feel will help meet their needs. She said they look forward to any advice the Presidents Council can offer.

Laura Perdue, SNAP Ed Extension, spoke further about the pilot project being done at Dunedin Hi-Rise. She explained it was chosen because it has the family and hi-rise settings they were looking for. The plan is to work more intently with Dunedin in improving the health of their community. She handed out a flyer that explains more about what they're doing. Their goal is to make people more active and healthy.

## SECTION 3 UPDATE

To be presented at the next PC Meeting.

## GREEN INITIATIVES

Yen Tran, Green Initiatives Technician, will give an update at our next meeting.

## CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, brought up hi-rise Annual Picnics. She said they will be requesting the Picnic money in the next two weeks, and will get the money out to Resident Councils before the next Presidents Council Meeting. She emphasized that it's very important that Councils make copies of all their receipts for expenses. The *Draft Budget Form* for the picnic – which will be enclosed with the check you receive – must be sent back to the Presidents Council along with copies of all expenses for your Picnic. **If the Presidents Council does not receive this information from your Resident Council, the money you received must be paid back to the Presidents Council, who in turn pays it back to the PHA.** Julia also distributed the *Safe Summer Nights* program flyers that Keith Draz previously mentioned when he spoke.

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

Submitted by:



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## **Meeting Reminders:**

### **Next Presidents Council Meeting:**

Monday, May 23, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Executive Committee:** May 13, 11:00 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Annual Recognition Event:** May 23 @ 11:00 a.m.

**Community Building:** May 6, 9:30 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Computer Team:** May 19, 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.

**Community Insider:** May 6 @ 11:00 a.m. - Noon - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

## **Presidents Council Website:**

[www.stphapresidentscouncil.org](http://www.stphapresidentscouncil.org)