

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

John Cardoza, Cleveland, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on April 24, 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 them up at the next PC Meeting. A Motion was made by *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, to accept the Minutes as they stand, which was seconded by *Karen Arnold*, Exchange. The Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of March. The checkbook register balance is forty-one thousand, seven hundred sixty-five dollars and twenty-one cents (\$41,765.21). The ending balance is forty-one thousand, twenty-seven dollars and ninety-nine cents (\$41,027.99). The problem with the February Treasurer's Report has been corrected, and the Treasurer will give February and April reports at the next PC Meeting.

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, said last month there was \$1,800.00 of un-cleared bank transactions, and now there is \$669.00. This began happening around the time they started using QuickBooks. Some resident councils were also switching banks then, and some had new officers on their Boards. She gave further details regarding the un-cleared checks, along with information about checks in general. We will continue to clarify the un-cleared checks, and we are confident the PC's funds are in good shape.

GUEST SPEAKER

Julia Hupperts, Hi-Rise Resident Council Coordinator, spoke for *Steve Schmidt* of T-Mobile, who was unable to make the meeting. He said he will attend either the May or September meeting to give more information and answer questions. All Reps were given his T-Mobile handout. *Alicia Huckleby*, Resident Initiatives Director, said because federal funds were provided to digital service providers, they in turn are supposed to lower the cost for Internet access. This also caused major competition among the phone companies.

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 still haven't heard from HUD what their program allocation will be and he'll keep us updated. He stated they were successful getting the \$500,000 grant from *Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines* for Valley Hi-Rise funding. They're also putting in more applications at the same bank. In closing, he stated the elevators will be replaced at Front. He then took questions.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, again wanted to remind everyone about the PHAS inspections coming up; however, dates have changed. **Exchange and Wabasha will be inspected May 24th**. All residents in hi-rises slated for PHAS inspections will receive a letter, which will be sent out by the end of this week. She also stated that two more managers have been hired; one is assigned to Edgerton and Iowa, and the other to Valley and Wilson. She said they plan on hiring two more managers, who will be assigned to Exchange, Front and Central.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

The Presidents Council welcomes Sargent *Kent Cleveland*, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP. Beginning today, he – or one of his officers -- will be giving the Safety and Security Report each month. He said it's been very quiet lately where police calls are concerned; just a few neighbor disputes and loud noises. He also stated someone pried open the change machine at Central. It's important that residents don't let anyone in the building they don't know, or isn't visiting them. In addition he stated the SPPD is getting a lot of reports of pedestrians getting hit by cars. He went on to explain the rights of pedestrians in crosswalks. He then answered questions.

OLD BUSINESS

John Cardoza, Cleveland, gave an update on the *Annual Recognition Event*. He gave everyone a flyer showing information and photos of the rental rooms at The Wilder Foundation. That particular venue was chosen because it's larger, much more accessible and it's centrally located. The room rental was \$800.00, but we were given a discount of \$400.00. Also, the event was planned for May 22nd, but the only date available at Wilder is Friday, May 26th. After a discussion, the Board agreed to change the date and time of the PC Meeting. *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, made a Motion to move the Presidents Council Meeting to May 26th instead of the fourth Monday of the month. The Motion was seconded by *Leona Eishen*, Wilson, and the Motion carried.

John also handed out a flyer entitled: "*Set The Day To Music*". Music is the soundtrack of our lives, and this year we would like to share that soundtrack at our *Annual Recognition Event*. They would like each hi-rise to provide up to five songs that we can add to our event playlist. You can send either .mp3 files, or just the song's name and artist, to the Presidents Council. Send emails to pctreasurer@stphapresidentscouncil.org or info@johncardoza.us. The guidelines for the music are:

1. No songs with profanity.
2. No hardcore rap or metal.
3. No songs that could be offensive to anyone.
4. The deadline for sending songs/music suggestions is May 1st.

NEW BUSINESS

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, spoke about the recycling checks and said a note came from their accountant stating they need a *Form W9* from each resident council that receives money. She passed out W9's that hadn't been completed and they were signed and dated. She also wanted to explain what the Annual Recognition Event was about for those who are new. It's an event to recognize and thank the hi-rise council officers, and recognize them for all the work they've done over the past year. Resident council's contribute for the cost of their officers to attend. The tickets are \$25.00 per person, up to five people.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

A *Vendor Fair* was held at the Mt. Airy Community Center and was well attended. Julia Hupperts said this is the time of year that resident council's should look at the vendor they have and decide whether they want to stay with their present vendor, or choose a new one. Vending Contracts run from July 1st to June 30th. She handed out a flyer regarding the *Vendor Fair*, which also has the vendors' contact numbers and/or e-mail addresses. The process of getting a new vendor can take between 30 and 60 days, so it's important for councils to make a decision soon. Resident councils are responsible for the Contract, not the Vendor Reps. Anyone needing a copy of the current Vendor Contract, can contact the Presidents Council Office.

ST. PAUL PARKS & NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATE

John Cardoza, Cleveland, brought up the St. Paul Parks Ambassadors Program and spoke about the different activities they sponsor. In particular, he was looking for information about the Lake Phalen fishing event. Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Coordinator, said it's held every month beginning May 3rd. Betsy added that they're working on finalizing a partnership agreement with the *St. Paul Parks & Natural Resources Program*. She also said she'll work to get a list of all the public events they offer.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director, had a follow-up on the discussion we had last month about a proposal that Julia, Dianne and she worked on for Jon Gutzmann, Executive Director, St. Paul Public Housing, so that each of the resident councils could have council debit cards. She distributed copies of the proposal, allowing Board members to offer their input. She did a summary of the proposal; the Memorandum as well as the proposed procedure, to see if there are any major concerns or questions today. Most importantly, take this back and talk about it at your next resident council meeting. When you have your final meeting, she wants to collect the feedback to figure out whether or not the PHA needs to make changes to the procedures. This is something they want to try and have up and running as soon as possible. If there are not a lot of changes, hopefully we'll have it finalized and voted on by June. If there are changes, we'll have to wait until September when the PC meets again, and the first order of business will be the Debit Cards. She proceeded to go through the Proposal with the Board – page by page – and suggestions were offered and changes were considered. She then asked for any questions.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator / Youth Literacy, said she didn't have anything going on right now. They're working and developing any partnerships that were set, as they go. She wanted to remind us that if we hear of any residents who want anything in particular, or if they have any ideas for any particular job training or education that will lead them into employment, please give her a call. Your resident council has her number. In the coming months they will be visiting the hi-rises to talk more about this. For the family sites, they're working on a partnership for students at the YWCA. She also heard about a program starting May 8th called *Office Essentials*. If you're interested in computer skills, or professional communication skills, get in touch with her. It takes place at the WYCA on Selby and Laurel Avenue, near Neill hi-Rise.

ROSS TEAM

Ed Petsche and *Val Wolf*, ROSS Employment and Educational Coordinators. Ed stated that since the last meeting, they had a Job Fair at Central and they also had three employers training programs. They're in the process of planning a second one, but haven't worked out the details yet. They're also scheduling Budget Classes at the hi-rises that haven't had it yet. One is scheduled at Dunedin in early May and flyers are up. Ed Petsche can be reached at **651-298-4931**, and Val Wolf at **651-298-4933**.

COMPUTER UPDATE

Aaron Smothers, IT Digital Literacy Coordinator, will update us at the next meeting.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Betsy Christensen, PHA SHIP Coordinator started off by inviting the new Garden Mentors to the front of the room. They were part of a program that started in partnership with *The Ramsey County Master Gardener Program*. There are three PHA residents who completed it. Also, last month Reps were given a *Walk With A Doc* schedule, and they hope you can join them this summer. They will be rotating around six different locations; and next year six other locations.

Ann Tranvik, St. Paul Public Health Nurse, introduced the new Garden Mentors and asked them to come up and be recognized. They were: Mary Ingold, Exchange; Pam Martin, Wilson and Phil Lee, Seal. The three candidates -- who applied through the application process that was open to everyone this past year -- were selected because of their interest in gardening and their passion for working with gardens within their communities. There were five separate sessions, three hours each, at the Mt. Airy Community Center. They were taught by the Master Gardener Coordinator, as well as another Master Gardener. It was a combination of on-line class and discussions. The three new Garden Mentors will be available to hi-rise gardeners on a regular basis.

The *Diabetes Self-Management Program* is an opportunity for on-site diabetes education at your building. It's a seven week program; one week of introduction and six weeks of classes. A minimum of eight participants is required and the program will be provided through March of next year. She handed out flyers describing the program and sent around a sign-up sheet for those that are interested in having a series at their site.

There was also a discussion about the HUD *No Smoking Rule* and how that's going to affect residents. As of July 31, 2018, no smoking will be allowed in PHA buildings, or within 25 feet of PHA property.

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 that at the May PC Meeting and *Annual Recognition Event*, she'll work with the Treasurer to make sure everyone gets the \$100.00 beautification check, which is issued for each hi-rise. That money will be used at your hi-rise to beautify the building. She also said she's working with Betsy Christensen regarding tallying surveys for the Challenge Grant, and she'd like to have more surveys in the future.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson,
PC/RPC Secretary
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Meeting Reminders:

Next Presidents Council Meeting

Friday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - The Wilder Foundation

Annual Recognition Event

Friday, May 26, 11:00 a.m., Immediately Following Presidents Council Meeting

Executive Committee: May 12 - 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Building: May 5 - 10:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Computer Team: May 18 - 1:30 p.m. – Board Room.