

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Bonnie Eckels, Dunedin, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and took a roll call of hi-rise Representatives present, along with PHA staff members.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Aado Perandi, PC/RPC Secretary, Wabasha, stated you can always find a copy of the Minutes posted on the PC website. He also asked Representatives to instruct their resident council Secretaries to print a copy of the PC Minutes and post them along with the Minutes from their resident council meetings. Melanie Fox, Montreal, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Leonardo Thomas, Seal, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Ed Arias, from United Healthcare reported that the Federal Government has announced the end of the Public Health Emergency that was triggered by Covid. What this means is that a lot of the federally funded programs were put on pause with regards to qualifying or re-qualifying for some benefits. Some of these benefits include Food Stamps, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare. Medicaid is the more general term used for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare.

Effective April first the State of Minnesota has announced the ending of the Public Health Emergency. Before the pandemic, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare needed to be re-certified once per year on the month the Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare were first applied for. This re-certification will start up again this April 1 for those who first applied in July. The Minnesota Department of Human Services will send out the first batch of re-certification forms in early April. The next batch of renewal forms will be sent in early May for those who first applied in August, and so on. To continue to receive medical benefits, one needs to still be eligible, income wise, asset wise, etc. and also must fill in and file the re-certification forms when required.

If you have any further questions, please check with your county worker, or check with any aid provider you may be dealing with which may be able to connect you with other resources. Also, one can check with Betsy Christensen for a list of resources. The floor was then opened for questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for March.

For March the cleared balance is one hundred two thousand, one hundred sixty-nine dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$102,169.87). The ending balance is one hundred one thousand, seven hundred thirty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$101,734.87). The report will be filed for audit. Melissa then took questions.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT

Brent Feller, Construction Program Manager / Maintenance Contracts gave an update. Maintenance staff is busy budgeting, planning, and getting out contract and bid documents.

Current projects include: at Hamline a crane will be used in the back area this Wednesday and Friday, and some areas will be closed to parking; at Front a crane will be used later this week, further details will be posted when known; Ramsey County announced that the plan is to start work on the roundabout project at Montreal Avenue and Lexington Parkway intersection—if any questions contact your Resident Services (RS) manager or visit the project's webpage at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/roads-transportation/future-road-projects/future-road-construction-projects/lexington-parkway-reconstruction-phase-two> for additional details on the project; the parking lot mill and overlay project to re-pave the full parking lot area at Hamline hi-rise will begin later this year; landscape work will be done at Iowa, Wilson, Edgerton, Exchange, Front, Hamline and Montreal hi-rises; parking lots will be swept later this year, looking at late June or early July; sidewalk trip-hazard removal will be done at Seal, Montreal and Hamline; the Valley elevator work is finished; the Valley electrical replacement project is scheduled to start up within a month; the Hamline kitchen work is mostly complete; the Front plumbing project is wrapping up.

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT *(continued)*

Mike Silvan, Assistant Maintenance Director had a few things to say during these spring months.

1. Preventative Maintenance inspections have started up early this April.
2. Heat will be shut off on May 15th.
3. Each of the lots will be swept. Some of the high-rises, where needed, will get new striping for the parking lot spaces later this summer.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise representatives.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Tara Johnson, Resident Services Senior Manager, reported that housekeeping inspections will be starting up in May. Tara reminded us that when the heat index is 85 degrees or higher the Community Rooms will be kept open 24 hours. Tara then took questions from the representatives.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Amy Boyer, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit reported that calls regarding unauthorized folks and trespassers has gone down which is great. If you notice any issues at your hi-rise, please let your building assistant manager know. There are legitimate federal programs that can help get laptops for folks that qualify, but be cautious as some offers may not be legitimate.

Please continue to report unauthorized people who are in your building.

The non-emergency number is 651-291-1111. Sgt. Amy can be reached at amy.boyer@ci.stpaul.mn.us or at her cell phone 651-703-7141. Sgt. Boyer then took questions.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2023 Election. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reported that May is the month that nominations are accepted for any residents or officers that are choosing to run for office. All candidates should be reminded that they must show up in person at the May meeting to accept their nomination. If any candidates need to be excused, they must receive permission in advance from Youa Thao in order to be excused. The nominees must be in good standing and approved by management. After

management verify the candidate's standing, the Assistant Manager will post the sign-up sheet back up. The Assistant Manager will reach out to any candidate that may not be eligible to run for office.

The meeting minute reports must record all the details of the election including first and last names of candidates and name of the office they are running for. If a council fails to record the names of the nominees and the office that the nominees are running for in the minute report, those councils will be ask to make the needed correction onto their minute report.

2. Commissioner Recruitment. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reported that at the April 24 Presidents Council Meeting the nominees will be announced. Voting begins and closes on May 15th. At the May 22 Presidents Council meeting the new commissioner will be announced. The current commissioner's office term will come to an end in August and the new commissioner's term will begin in September.

The following candidates shared their passions and thoughts about their decision to run for commissioner each in a two-minute video shown to the council: Leonard Thomas, Mindy Johnson, Steven Wold, Yasmine Aminou, Mary Elizabeth McKenzie and Yavone Ward.

NEW BUSINESS

1. QuickBooks Peer Application. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reported that the QuickBooks Peer Applications are due on May 31, 2023 and that late applications will NOT be accepted. The following describes the expectations of the QB peer role which are required along with the accurate auditing of the financial documents:

- Must have the ability to travel to assigned hi-rises to complete audits on site
- Must have the knowledge and skills to complete financial audits without any assistance
- Must be able to communicate with the Treasurer and communicate all findings and concerns to the Treasurer
- Must make all corrections as requested by the Resident Council Coordinator – in reasonable time frame
- For each audit, must submit financial report to Council & Assistant Manager and upload document to Dropbox according to the schedule of due dates – if you fail to do this, a different peer will be assigned to complete your audit
- Be respectful to all Peers/Councils/Staff – any concerns should be discussed in private with Management and not in group meetings/Training sessions/Email communications
- Maintain confidentiality regarding issues/concerns at assigned site with officers/residents/audits

Please note that by applying for the position you agree to follow all the above requirements.

2. Peer Adviser Application. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reported that the Peer Adviser Applications are due on June 30, 2023.
 - Peer Advisers are individuals that fill in for empty officer roles at the hi-rise council such as President, Secretary, or Treasurer.
 - Peer Advisers can also provide training to new officers and provide guidance to councils.

The Peer Adviser works closely with the Resident Council Coordinator and site Management. The level of confidentiality is high in this role. Peers will not share any details of possible conflicts, events, or situations that they may observe during their time serving as a peer at the hi-rises council with other residents, Peers or officers.

All applicants will be expected to communicate in a professional, fair, and respectful manner to residents, officers, and the management staff that they are assigned to assist. Applicant must have the knowledge to complete their assigned role at the hi-rise. Applicant will follow guidance from the RC Coordinator on how to best provide support to the councils.

The Resident Council Coordinator must assign and approve of all training and peer assignment.

Note: All our Peer trainings are only a one-time training upon every approval, unless specified by the Resident Council Coordinator that training is extended. Peers that schedule multiple training sessions of the one-time approved training by the RC Coordinator will NOT be paid for assignments that are unapproved and does not follow guidelines.

Upon filling out an application, applicant has agreed to follow and respect all of the rules and policies that pertain to the Peer Adviser role.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Commissioner, was not present, so there was no report.

John can be reached by phone at 651-955-5450.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy, updated us on education and training, etc. Beth works with the Resident Initiatives (RI) department and Section 3 unemployment is part of that. Beth is now also the Resident Initiatives Program Coordinator. Beth is currently in the planning stages for the following programs this summer and early fall: possibly a small business development training program; more empowerment classes; possibly twenty-first century workplace skills; and some programs associated with the Science Museum. Beth is looking for a group of volunteers that will learn some new skills by helping host some science fairs.

If we have any questions regarding employment, education or training please contact Beth at 651-252-5799. She then took questions.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director thanked everyone for their participation in and respect of the commissioner's nomination process. Thanks go to the folks who were reaching out to do more on behalf of their fellow residents. Alicia then took questions.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, had a few updates. Betsy reported that information about jars of honey available for purchase will be posted at the hi-rises. Cleveland hi-rise received

a large shipment of books from a local bookstore, so there are books available for other hi-rise libraries. Next Cub Foods Covid/Flu clinic will probably be held this upcoming fall/winter.

2023 Garden Mentor Program - Ramsey County Master Gardeners will offer up to 2 garden classes at each Hi Rise. Each class will include hands on learning activities and prizes!

- Class #2 - This class will be either nature heals, house plants, micro-greens or food preparation as chosen by class #1 participants. Class #2 will be scheduled April - May.

Ramsey County has launched a survey about climate change and community resilience for community members to complete. Folks who complete the survey will receive a gift card in the mail. Betsy is waiting for some fliers that will be distributed. She then took questions.

Betsy can be reached by email at betsy.christensen@stpha.org or by phone at 651-298-4030.

CLOSING

Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator reminded us that May and June will be our busiest month. Youa will release the vending contract on May 1st. If your council will be changing snack/beverage vendors let your assistant manager know when your older vendor will be removing their machines and the new one installing their machines. If your council have any questions about forms or procedures, please reach out to Youa. She then took questions.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Submitted by:

Aado Perandi
PC/RPC Secretary

MEETING REMINDERS:

(Meeting through Zoom)

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, May 12 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, May 25 @ 1:00 p.m.