

# **Presidents Council Meeting & Annual Recognition Event**

## **Minutes**

**May 26, 2017**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

*Melanie Fox*, Montreal, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on May 26, 2017 at 9:50 a.m. The meeting took place at the Amherst Wilder Foundation, where the *Annual Recognition Event* will also be held, following the meeting. She then asked for a roll-call of all hi-rises and their Representatives.

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*Bob Knutson*, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, requested that if there are any discrepancies found in the Minutes, bring them to his attention at the next meeting. A Motion was made by John Cardoza, Cleveland, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Gloria Jiles, Edgerton, and the Motion carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Melissa Pappas*, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of April. The checkbook register balance is forty thousand, seven hundred eight dollars and seven cents (\$40,708.07). The ending balance is thirty-nine thousand, two hundred five dollars and fifteen cents. (\$39,205.15). The report will be filed for audit.

### **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

*Jon Gutzmann*, Executive Director, St. Paul Public Housing, thanked *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, for the touching poem she wrote and recited at the beginning of the Annual Recognition Event; and he thanked everyone attending. He said he would be remiss if he didn't thank his "wonderful PHA staff"; and then proceeded to ask each of them to stand and be recognized as he called their name.

He also said it's going to be a little difficult dealing with the current budget that's come out of Washington, D.C., and he said there's a lot of work ahead to try and balance those bad budget numbers, to have a revenue source that can keep our buildings and apartments decent and safe. He stated he would say more about the Budget Proposal at a later date. He called upon all residents to fight back against the big cuts by contacting their representative in Washington D.C. and telling them you object to the deep cuts! In closing, he wanted to thank the Presidents Council for doing creative things with the scant amounts of money they have been given. In particular, he applauded the Presidents Council for the way in which they allocated the \$10,000.00 from the *Challenge Grant*. He went on to speak of the "computer evolution" that's taken place in the hi-rises.

## NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

John Cardoza, Cleveland, Eileen Mackin, Cleveland and Diane Anastos, PHA Resident Initiatives Coordinator, talked about a *Neighborhood Leadership Program*, sponsored through the Amherst Wilder Foundation. It's also in collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society and the PHA. *The Neighborhood Leadership Program* is comprised of 20 to 30 individuals who want to contribute to the community. Those interested in participating must be 16 years of age or older, and also demonstrate an interest in being involved in their community. John Cardoza stated the Program was a great opportunity for him, and he'd encourage anyone to go through it if it ever comes up again. In appreciation, he also presented Jon Gutzmann, Executive Director, St. Paul Public Housing, a gift box; which contained a small jar of honey made from the PHA bees that make their home in hives on top of the roof of the main downtown office building. The income from the honey is used for scholarships, such as *The Wilder Leadership Program*. Mr. Gutzmann again thanked everyone.

## HI-RISE REPRESENTATIVE SPEAKERS

Mindy Johnson, Cleveland, is a volunteer and Community Builder for her hi-rise. She's also been working with their HSC and Resident Council to plan activities in the building, or planning social outings for residents throughout the Twin Cities. In addition to other events; i.e., bingo, etc., Cleveland has also added a *Friday Night Music Club*. Realizing funds for events such as these are sometimes hard to come by, she approached various people and groups, to request donations of products or services that would help facilitate some of these events. She read a list of organizations that have donated items to Cleveland. She hopes others get involved in creative soliciting of donations for their councils.

David Owens, Mt. Airy, shared his experience being on the Presidents Council Board and the responsibility that went along with the job. He discovered that the PC was much more involved than he had originally thought. He then went on to read a list of the responsibilities he learned about. He also took a leadership course through NLP, and said it was very beneficial to him.

## SLIDE SHOW

Melissa Pappas, Seal, put on a slide show -- accompanied by music -- of panoramic photos of various hi-rises.

## MAINTENANCE REPORT

The Maintenance Report will be given when the Presidents Council resumes meetings in September.

## PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, took the opportunity to present each of the hi-rises with a *Certification of Appreciation* and thanked everyone for all they do. She also stated the PHAS Inspections were completed and the hi-rises received good scores.

## SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Kent Cleveland, Sargent, St. Paul Police Department – ACOP. He stated it's been generally quiet where police calls are concerned. He spoke about the "*Crosswalk Events*" which were held this past week, and he asked everyone to keep in mind that **every intersection is a legal crosswalk -- whether it's marked or unmarked -- and all vehicles must stop for pedestrians showing intent to cross the street.** This holds true for marked, mid-block crosswalks, as well. Drivers failing to yield were given citations.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

John Cardoza, Cleveland, made a Motion to move the date for the monthly Community Builder meeting, from October 2017 to June 2018. It was seconded by Karen Arnold, Exchange, and the Motion carried.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT**

Mary Puente, Commissioner, Front, stated that along with volunteering at her own hi-rise, she's also proud – as a Commissioner -- to work for everyone, in all sixteen hi-rises. She wanted to emphasize that she reports to the Presidents Council Board every month, and she hopes the hi-rise Representatives are taking her information back to their hi-rises to share with residents. It's impossible for her to attend every council meeting to get the word out, so it's very important that Representatives be sure and share that information. Also, if anyone has a suggestion on how they feel she could present the information in a better way, she welcomes all comments and suggestions. Get her number from Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator.

Big project updates: The plumbing renovation at Ravoux has been completed, and the same type of plumbing renovation will be starting soon at Valley. Also regarding Valley, funding has been approved to pay for part of the cost of converting the existing Maintenance Contract Office space, into four new one-bedroom units. Additional new units are slated to be added to Seal, as well. She also spoke about the *Allina Neighborhood Health Connections Grant*.

## **RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT**

*Alicia Huckleby*, Resident Initiatives Director & Interim Human Resource Director, spoke about the importance of having “partnerships”, and how appreciative the PHA has been in having good partnerships. Five years ago they started their work with Public Health, through the *Statewide Health Improvement Program*. She went on to say that it's only been four years since the creation of the Resident Initiatives Department, and it's come a long way in that short period of time. She spoke about events and activities that have been added over the years; also mentioning the many Grants through Allina, ROSS and other organizations. She announced they also now have comprehensive resource and services programs at all sixteen hi-rises.

## **ROSS TEAM**

*Ed Petsche* and *Val Wolf*, ROSS Employment and Educational Coordinators. Ed Petsche can be reached at **651-298-4931**, and Val Wolf at **651-298-4933**.

## **COMPUTER UPDATE**

*Aaron Smothers*, IT Digital Literacy Coordinator, gave an update on the computers and what's been going on since the installation of the security program *Faronics*.

## **SHIP GRANT UPDATE**

*Betsy Christensen*, PHA SHIP Coordinator, gave out flyers that give an overview of all the things they've done over the past year. She also placed one 'exercise resistance band' in the gift bags designated for each hi-rise. She said they always want to recognize the hard work that's being done to improve health at all the hi-rises; and this year Dunedin was chosen for their creation of a *Health Action Team*, and for all of the work they put into it. Betsy said SHIP is continually trying to figure out innovative ways to do their work better and more efficiently.

## **CLOSING**

*Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, wanted everyone to know, it was her honor to have worked with those on the Presidents Council, as well as the individual sixteen hi-rise resident councils. Much was achieved during the past year, and she especially wanted to thank the PHA for their consistent support. She also reminded each Representative to be sure to get their gift bag from the front of the room. The bag not only contains the exercise resistance bands, but also the \$100.00 Flower Fund check from the PHA, which is used for beautifying your hi-rise surroundings. There's also a note from the Treasurer. In addition -- as Betsy Christensen suggested -- in the fall you'll get a second container of 'exercise resistance bands', along with a laminated poster that instructs you on how to use them. She said the posters should be placed in a conspicuous place. In closing she wanted to especially thank Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Interim Human Resource Director, for being the big help and support she's always been to her and the councils. In appreciation, Julia presented Alicia with a gift from the Presidents Council.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by:



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## **Meeting Reminders:**

### **Next Presidents Council Meeting**

September 25, 2017, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

**Executive Committee:** Monday, September 18 - 11:00 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Community Building:** October 6 - 10:00 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Computer Team:** June 15 - 1:30 p.m. – Board Room.