

Presidents Council Meeting Minutes

Held At the Wilder Center

June 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Donna Walters, Seal, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on June 4, 2018 at 9:45 a.m. Roll call and Introductions followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, reminded Reps that they all have copies of the May Presidents Council Minutes in their packets. The Minutes can also be found on-line at the Presidents Council webpage: www.stphapresidentscouncil.org. If any discrepancies are found in the Minutes, bring it to my attention during the Secretary's Report at the next meeting. A Motion was made by David Owens, Mt. Airy, to accept the Minutes as they stand. It was seconded by Edward Lane, Central, and the Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, gave a rundown of income and expenses for the month of May. The checkbook register balance as of May 31, 2018, is fifty-three thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and thirteen cents (\$53,688.13). The ending balance is fifty-three thousand, seven hundred thirty-eight dollars and thirteen cents (\$53,738.13). The report will be filed for audit.

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Charisse Brown, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, had a couple of updates about the plumbing renovation taking place at Valley. They're near completion of the plumbing renovation there and will be moving on to Montreal next, for the same type of renovation. They're still looking for Montreal residents who would be willing to transfer to other hi-rises. They need several vacant units available during construction work. After Montreal, Front will undergo the same renovation.

The *Smoke-Free Lease Addendum* has been completed and everyone living in public housing will be required to sign one. It's also a hot time of the year and she said air-conditioned community rooms or other spaces should be left open 24-hours a day when it's 85 degrees or above.

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Grundhauser, St. Paul Police Department, went through the calls for service at the hi-rises. He said if anyone has any security concerns, they should speak to their manager and the manager will pass the information onto him. He also explained how their call system dispatches and prioritizes calls. He then answered questions.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REPORT

On May 23, 2018, the PHA Board of Commissioners approved the following actions:

1. Section 8 Management Assessment Program (SEMAP) Certification; High Performer Rating.
2. Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program; Application for 250 Vouchers; Mainstream Program (Section 811) for Persons with Disabilities.
3. Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program; Application for 100 Vouchers; Family Unification Program; Admission & Occupancy Policy Updates.
4. Proposal to Provide Inspection Services to Washington County CDA for Section 8; Housing Quality Standards (HQS).
5. Construction Services for Roosevelt Community Center Office Renovation; AMP 4, MN 1-2; Contract No. 19-001.

You don't hear a lot of about it presently, but RAD is still in the waiting phase, and we're updated monthly. He also announced that the PHA celebrated 35-years as being the PHA; and for 31 of those years, Jon Gutzmann, PHA Executive Director, has been a part of it. See his remarks follow.

SECTION 3 UPDATE

Beth Pacunas, Section 3 Projects Coordinator/Youth Literacy. Her job as Section 3 Coordinator is to organize partnerships and find people jobs, field training, and education that will lead to employment. She emphasized that if any residents come to you, skilled or not, have them call Beth at **651-228-3204**. They can also contact the Resident Initiatives Department. Contractors who do work for the PHA hire skilled workers who are living in public housing; i.e., plumbers, electricians, carpenters, etc.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Interim Human Resource Director, stated they've been working closely with Resident Services on the smoke-free policy, which will take effect July 30, 2018. They will be a meeting with all of their smoking cessation partners next Monday. They would like to have a partner at a table at each location, in case people have questions, or are interested in smoking cessation support services.

SHIP GRANT UPDATE

Ann Tranvik, St. Paul Public Health Nurse, thanked everyone for the opportunity for them to partner with resident councils, Presidents Council, etc., through the SHIP Grant, since 2012. She also reminded everyone that the no-smoking rule will go into effect July 30, 2018.

They had their first *Freedom From Smoking* support group at Seal Hi-Rise. Let her know if your council would like to set one of those groups up at your hi-rise. SHIP updates include: *Tobacco Cessation, Garden Mentors, Park Ambassadors, Walk & Roll with a Doctor, Stop for Me Crosswalk Safety Events, FREE Family Yoga Classes.*

SHIP GRANT UPDATE (continued)

In preparation for the HUD Smoke-Free Public Housing Policy, the following are available: *Staff Training, Resident Education, Community Partners Education & Activities, Community Outreach Activities, Cessation Support Activities, Cessation Resources and Self Care and Wellness Support.*

Betsy Christensen, SHIP Coordinator, is the person who coordinates all the activities; in addition to being the SHIP Coordinator. She talked about two crosswalk events and how successful they were in getting temporary, fully-marked crosswalks, along with lighted speed monitoring signs. She also played a video of the Ravoux Crosswalk Event.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Julia Hupperts presented two updated election forms for P.C. approval. One is a candidate listing sheet for a five-member board and the other is a listing sheet for a six-member board. Minor additions and changes were made. Antrinita Wright, Ravoux, made a Motion that both updated *election forms* be approved. It was seconded by Wayne Copeland, Edgerton and the Motion carried.
2. The *Notice of Election* sheet had some wording changes with regard to nominees having to be present to participate in an election. If approved it will be inserted into the Resident Council Guide. Antrinita Wright, Ravoux, made a Motion that the *Notice of Election* sheet be approved. William Copeland, Edgerton, seconded and the Motion carried.
3. Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented a proposed *Check Policy*, for approval by the P.C. John Cardoza, Cleveland, made a Motion to approve the *Check Policy*. It was seconded by Teresa Souvannachack, Montreal, and the Motion carried.

Julia Hupperts reminded everyone that the Resident Participation Committee (RPC) meets quarterly, and it's open to any hi-rise resident. The RPC's job is to make sure the money that's received from the PHA, is spent in a responsible manner. During a meeting, the RPC, along with the Community Building team, came up with the following:

- Rename the group of hi-rise residents, who are interested in planning and promoting fun, community-building activities within their hi-rise to: **Community Sharing Circle**.
- The *Community Sharing Circle* will begin meeting monthly as of August 3, 2018.
- Participants are volunteers and will not receive a stipend for attending.
- The secretary will receive a stipend of \$10/month for:
 - Recording and archiving minutes of each meeting.
 - Posting the minutes on the Presidents Council webpage.
 - Emailing announcements of monthly meetings.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

- The Resident Council Coordinator and community volunteers will participate in the monthly meetings.
 - The Presidents Council will budget up to \$800 annually for individual hi-rise councils to request reimbursement for hi-rise activities which strengthen community within the hi-rise. Each hi-rise will be allowed to request a \$50 reimbursement annually, for expenditures for such things as games, puzzles, cards, light refreshments, etc. **Reimbursements must be approved by the Resident Council Coordinator.**

Antrinita Wright, Ravoux, made a Motion that the *Community Sharing Circle* be approved. It was seconded by William Copeland, Edgerton, and the Motion carried.

TWIN CITY MOBILE MARKET

Filson Ibrahim, Twin Cities Mobile Market. The TCMM is a city bus that's been converted into a mobile market, which brings healthy food to areas that are considered food deserts (no shopping nearby). She said it's been her pleasure to work with the resident councils at all of the sites. They've been very helpful in helping them make decisions on many issues. Donna Walters, Seal, added that TCMM also has volunteers who take orders for those who are disabled or unable to use the stairs on the bus.

WILDER FOUNDATION

Marika Pfefferkorn, of the Wilder Foundation's *Neighborhood Leadership Program*, asked those residents who had gone through that Program, to stand up and be recognized. She said they are pleased and proud of the partnership we have. She also introduced a *Neighborhood Leadership Program* graduate, Phil Lee, Seal, who spoke about his experiences of being a part of the Program.

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

Mela Krick, PHA, is one of the hi-rise managers. She said she's honored to be able to present *Certificates of Recognition* to all of the hi-rises. She thanks everyone for their hard work in their attempts to better the lives of the residents in their buildings. She handed out the Certificates.

Angela Holm, PHA Assistant Controller, said it's her pleasure to present an award to the people who deal with the finances and the accounting software on a daily basis. The recipients of the awards were:

- Melissa Pappas
- John Cardoza
- Michele Newell

Those who were not present for their awards were:

- Laurie Wrycza
- Jesse Thomas
- Mary Puente

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator, presented Certificates of Recognition to Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer and Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary, in appreciation for the great work they do for the Presidents Council.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Jon Gutzmann, PHA Executive Director, thanked everyone for being here today to reflect on all of your hard work and all of the giving and volunteering.

Mr. Gutzmann said he feels blessed to have the job he's got, along with a very dedicated, capable staff. He announced that soon he'll be celebrating 31-years of working for the PHA. He went on to say that he's humbled every day to put on the '*PHA cap*' and do what needs to be done. There's something special about what he and his staff do; he said. The work we do gets into our blood.

Many of his PHA staff members are here today, and he asked them to stand and be recognized. He and his staff truly care, and are committed to providing safe, affordable, quality housing. He again thanked and congratulated all who generously work and play a major role in making their communities nicer places.

Alicia Huckleby, PHA Resident Initiatives Director / Human Resources Director, stated that every year she's given the opportunity to participate in this recognition event, she tries to think about what the past season has told her. What stood out to her was the community empowerment. She listed and spoke about some of our accomplishments this past year.

You've applied for, and successfully spent, an Allina Health Grant, which had the goal of supporting physical education activities through the *Walk With A Doc* event and other physically challenging activities. Those activities have provided more opportunity for residents to get up, get out and get moving, in support of their own health.

You've also exercised your mental muscle in a variety of ways, too. You've worked with PHA staff to develop a Debit Card Users Policy, which will makes council purchases easier, and still ensures there's a high level of accountability in the use of federal funds.

Requests for scholarships to attend the Wilder Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Training have increased. What this means is that more of your council colleagues are taking the steps needed to develop the skills that will allow them to be strong advocates and leaders in their individual resident councils.

Participation in the PHA / University of Minnesota extension programs; specifically the *Gardeners Mentor Training Program*, has increased. This also means that participants are not just gaining the training, but they're also a knowledgeable source for hi-rise garden committees. They're also using this opportunity as a stepping stone for potential business concepts.

Your Computer Team did not languish and die because the ROSS Grant ended. Instead, you kicked it into high gear to recruit residents who could be trained as Computer Administrators, to keep the computer labs up and running. There are Computer Peer teams ready to help, as well.

The point is, that these singularly individual milestones that you've accomplished, are really spokes of a much larger wheel, which shows how you as a group are doing to ensure that your councils, as a whole, are engaged and taking their responsibilities seriously. They protect the interests and needs of your community.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS (continued)

Alicia emphasized to the residents who are new to being officers on a council board, be prepared! The bars are set high and there's no retreating from the standards you've already set for yourself. So remember: committed, enlightened, mindful individuals make for strong productive resident councils. She encourages everyone to keep challenging themselves in these ways, and keep taking advantage of opportunities for additional education and growth, and to keep supporting and empowering the resident community.

CLOSING

Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator thanked everyone for coming and said it's been her honor to have worked with you all this past year. She reminded all Reps that there is a gift bag for each hi-rise up front. A \$100.00 check for your Beautification Fund is also in the bag.

She also introduced Laurel Anderson, who is volunteering in the Presidents Council office twenty hours per week.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Have a Great Summer!

Submitted by:



Bob Knutson, PC/RPC Secretary
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Meeting Reminders:

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, September 24, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Executive Committee: September 14 @ 11:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Community Building: August 3 @ 10:00 a.m. - 3rd floor.

Computer Team: July 19 @ 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.