

# **Presidents Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 26, 2016**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

*Connie Lydon*, Neill, called the Presidents Council Meeting to order on September 26, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., after which introductions were made.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

*Bob Knutson*, PC/RPC Secretary, Ravoux, asked everyone to look over the Minutes from the May meeting, and if corrections need to be made, bring them to his attention at our next meeting. *Melanie Fox*, Montreal, made a Motion that the Minutes be accepted as they stand. It was seconded by *John Cardoza*, Cleveland, and the Motion was carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*Melissa Pappas*, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal, presented the Treasurer's Reports for the months of June, July and August. The current balance is forty-five thousand, three hundred eighty-six dollars and seventy-five cents (\$45,386.75). *Melanie Fox*, Montreal made a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, which was seconded by *Jim Heining*, Exchange. The Motion was carried and the Report will be filed for audit.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

The Commissioner's Report will be given at our next meeting.

## **MAINTENANCE REPORT**

There will be a Maintenance Report at our next meeting.

## **PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT**

*Charisse Brown*, Assistant Resident Services Senior Manager, gave a couple of updates. She again strongly encourages residents to obtain renter's insurance. Another matter that's coming up soon is the once-a-year *Application for Continued Occupancy (ACO)*, and she reminded everyone that those residents who have Fixed Incomes will be able to mail in the information now.

## **SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT**

Keith Draz, Safety & Security Coordinator, will give a full report at the next meeting. However, if you have any problems or concerns about safety in or around your hi-rise, give him a call at 651-558-2305. If he's not available, leave a message; he returns all calls.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Connie Lydon*, Neill, spoke about Stipends and stated we need a Motion to approve them. She presented a list of all Stipends and their respective amounts. She then elaborated on the changes that were made. Connie asked everyone to take a copy with them and be prepared to vote on them at our next meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- *Toni Newborn*, Diversity & Consulting Services Manager for the City of St. Paul, said her job is to manage the hiring process for the City. She also works with Human Resources. She came here today to talk about recruitment efforts geared towards people who want to work for the City of St. Paul. Mayor Coleman asked them to increase the City workforce by three and a half percent, with emphasis on socioeconomic issues in hiring. She will return in the future to talk more about the recruitment plan.
- *Martin Ludden* from COMCAST came to speak about *Internet Essentials*, which is their effort as a company to bridge the digital divide. They're normally associated with families with school children, but have expanded their program to include anyone who lives in Public Housing or those who have a Section 8 Voucher. They are now eligible for *Internet Essentials* whether or not they have children in school. He then gave us a quick rundown of what *Internet Essentials* is and how families and households qualify. He also stated they're willing to speak at individual hi-rise Councils.
- *Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, introduced this year's proposed Budget. She said we weren't going to go through it line-by-line today, but urged everyone to take a copy and look it over. There will be a discussion and a vote at the next meeting in October. She further went on to explain some of the changes that were made, and also said anyone with questions can take them to their Hi-Rise Representative who will then pass them on to her.

## **BOARD ELECTIONS**

*Connie Lydon*. Neill, called for nominations for the Presidents Council Executive Board, at which time John Cardoza, Cleveland, made a Motion to appoint Melissa Pappas as PC/RPC Treasurer for thirty days. It was seconded by Melanie Fox, Montreal and was carried. He also made a Motion that Bob Knutson, Ravoux, be appointed as PC/RPC Secretary for thirty days.

## **BOARD ELECTIONS** (continued)

The Motion was seconded by Chastity Sabanjo, Ravoux, and was also carried. Connie then asked if any Representative was interested in serving as an Officer on the Presidents Council Executive Board this year. David Owen, Mt. Airy, Melanie Fox, Montreal, John Cardoza, Cleveland, Chastity Sabanjo, Ravoux and Leona Tyson, Wilson, nominated themselves and said they would like to serve. They were sworn in by Julia Hupperts, Resident Council Coordinator.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Presidents Council and the PHA was read, and then signed by Julia Hupperts and Chastity Sabanjo.

## **RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT**

*Alicia Huckleby*, PHA Resident Initiatives Director, welcomed everyone back, along with some new faces. She said this year they're looking forward to doing some exciting things with the Challenge Grant, along with some new initiatives from our SHIP work team from Ramsey County; Betsy Christenson, PHA; Yen Tran of Green Initiatives, along with Beth Pacunas of the Jobs Training Program. Alicia's main focus today though, is on something we don't have; a *Computer Use Protocol*. She handed out a page of listings for the types of things that are not allowed on computers funded and supported with federal funds. What this draft *Computer Use Protocol* does is let people know there are rules. She then went on to list each rule. Finalized copies will be distributed to all Resident Councils. Chastity Sabanjo, Ravoux, made a Motion to accept the *Computer Use Protocol*, which was seconded by Michelle Newell, Edgerton. The Motion was carried.

## **ROSS TEAM**

Ed Petsche stated that, just like the City of St. Paul announcing its Initiative to increase the diversity of the workforce, the Governor's Office also announced an initiative, and the counties are looking to do that as well. He said last week they had a *Government Career Fair* at Mt. Airy Community Center with 70 people attending. The Team has assisted eighty people with employment since July 2015. He also stated they are looking to schedule more Budget Classes in the hi-rises, and will be contacting the Resident Councils.

## **COMPUTER UPDATE**

*Aaron Smothers*, IT Digital Literacy Coordinator, addressed digital piracy and illegal downloading of prohibited materials, that's been occurring on PHA-owned computers, along with people receiving letters from Comcast regarding such activity. He went on to explain that 14 of the 16 hi-rises don't have their Comcast accounts on the Internet. He proposes having all 16 hi-rises on one account. Chastity Sabanjo, Ravoux, made a Motion to combine all hi-rises into one account. David Owen, Mt. Airy, seconded and it was carried. Aaron suggested every Resident Council have a dialogue on that.

## **SHIP GRANT UPDATES**

*Betsy Christensen*, SHIP Coordinator, explained what SHIP is all about. They are working to make Minnesota a better place for all of us. The focus is on healthy eating, access to healthier food, and resources in the community. They also focus on physical activity. They're interested in working with the PHA for another year, and learning what our healthy living priorities are, and how we can learn to partner together to bring those opportunities to your sites. She handed out a packet that has their contact information in it, as well as some flyers about Diabetes and a walking event coming up soon.

*Ann Tranvik*, Public Health Nurse, stated they have been working on healthy eating and active living, but will be wrapping it up with the main focus on Diabetes, by having educational opportunities available. She spoke about the group "*Everyone With Diabetes Counts*" which is a program for the control of the disease. They've been able to offer this free series at different sites. They've gone to two sites already. Any sites interested in having this group, contact Ann; her card is in the packet. It requires a minimum of eight people for a period of six weeks.

## **GREEN INITIATIVES**

*Yen Tran*, Green Initiatives Technician, said she looks forward to working with all the returning and new Officers. She primarily works on improving the environment and living conditions for the PHA's residents, and also works on the gardens. If anyone has any questions or needs any tools for gardening, etc. please contact Yen.

## **SECTION 3 UPDATE**

*Beth Pacunas*, Section 3 Projects Coordinator / Youth Literacy, explained she does education and job-skills training that will hopefully lead applicants to Ed and Val -- of the ROSS Grant -- who will work to get you a job. She sent out a survey to residents and left some with housing managers and HSC's. If you know someone in your building who's looking for something in particular -- some sort of class -- give Beth a call or email her and she will try and do what she can so serve their needs.

## **CLOSING**

*Julia Hupperts*, Resident Council Coordinator, reminded everyone about the PHA Maintenance Capital Fund Program discussion, that's to be held at Resident Council meetings. Your Council meeting should be on the list with the date Maintenance Contracts will be coming to your meeting.

## **CLOSING** (continued)

The *Wilder Mobile Market* will be contacting Councils, at the hi-rises they serve, to be put on their Council meeting Agendas. She also encouraged people to look over the Budget which will be discussed and voted on at the October meeting.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by:



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## **Meeting Reminders:**

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

Monday, October 24, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Executive Committee:** October 14, 11:00 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Community Building:** October 7, 9:30 a.m. - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

**Computer Team:** October 20, 1:30 p.m. - Board Room.

## **Presidents Council Website:**

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