

Presidents Council Zoom Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

Mindy Johnson, Cleveland, 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/PCRPC 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. Jason Bruce, Exchange, made a Motion to accept last month's Minutes as they stand. Bonnie Eckels, Dunedin, seconded and the Motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER

Jon Gutzmann, PHA Executive Director gave greetings to all the Presidents Council officers, PHA staff that are here today and Sgt. Boerger. We welcome Leonard Thomas to the PHA board. Leonard was approved by the Mayor and the City Council. Leonard will attend the PHA board this Wednesday and be sworn in. We really appreciate that Leonard is stepping up in service to the PHA board and we are looking forward to meeting him in person, this Wednesday.

Mr. Gutzmann thanked all who are attending this meeting along with the officers who could not be here today for their services to the hi-rises. The Presidents Council work is difficult, sometimes feeling thankless with the pressure one can get from the residents in one's building. But this is self-governance—the PHA really respects, appreciates, and frankly relies on our voices, as the voices of the residents in our hi-rise communities.

Mr. Gutzmann reported that there are plans to install visual displays in each hi-rise. Messages for all hi-rises will be displayed on all displays, and messages for specific hi-rises will be displayed on the relevant displays. Initially a display will be set up at Montreal hi-rise to see how it will work out. He then took questions from the hi-rises.

Louise Seeba, PHA Deputy Executive Director appreciates the invite and the opportunity to talk to us all. She was at our last meeting in May and it was fun to celebrate some of the successes of the Presidents Council. She noted the productive meeting where everyone felt safe and respected. The Computer Team and Computer Peers are helping expand the residents' opportunities through technology. The Presidents Council website at <https://www.stphapresidentscouncil.org/> provides information on quit smoking resources, Ramsey County resources, previous job opportunities that were available to residents, where to reach out for mental health support and other health care resources. Also, the winter Community Insider had some fun pet stories and a bit of poetry from Melissa. It is great to see the extra things that are being done in addition to the meetings we are going to and all that is being done to increase the awareness for the residents. The Presidents Council seeks to make the homes of the PHA residents a real community. Louise thinks that having video display units to display messaging installed in each hi-rise is a good idea to help communications between PHA and the residents. The floor was then opened for questions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

For August the cleared balance is ninety-two thousand, seven hundred sixty-three dollars and fifty-one cents (\$92,763.51). The ending balance is ninety-one thousand, eight hundred sixteen dollars and one cent (\$91,816.01). 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: the Valley electrical replacement project is in progress, there will be a full building electrical shutdown on Wednesday, so be prepared for the power to go off for a while, also, the Resident Services office expansion project in the community room will be starting in about a month; some Mount Airy repair projects tomorrow will need to shut down the water; the Seal hi-rise will have a project coming up to replace the emergency generator; the Neill hi-rise electrical system replacement project is in the preparation and planning stages; Edgerton hi-rise just completed replacement of the elevator lobby windows on the second floor and replacement will continue on floors going up; Edgerton will have the elevators modernized, work will be done on one elevator at a time so that at least one elevator should remain in service; Montreal, Cleveland and possibly Seal will have sidewalk trip-hazards removed; Life Safety testing will be taking place during the months of October through December; Maintenance Contract Staff attended the September Resident Council meetings to talk about budgets and talk about projects completed, ongoing and planned.

Brent.Feller@stpha.org

PHA MAINTENANCE REPORT *(continued)*

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

1. Heat has been turned on in all the buildings beginning last week. Also, as it will be getting colder people should be putting their air conditioning covers on and properly securing them to prevent frozen and broken pipes.
2. When we get snow, be ready to move your car from the lots so that the lots can be plowed.
3. There will be fire pump testing going on this week.
4. If there are problems in the building, please call in a work order, the number to call is 651-298-4413.

Maintenance then took questions from the hi-rise representatives.

Michael.Silvan@stpha.org

PHA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Tara Johnson, Resident Services Senior Manager, reminded us that Resident Services is still conducting annual housekeeping inspections. If anything needs repair, please call the normal maintenance repair number at 651-298-4413 to get the repair done. Due to the coming colder weather, the community rooms will revert back to normal hours. The community rooms will not be open for twenty-four hours. As of October 2, Tara will be in the rental office as Rental Administrator. Mela Krick will be the Interim Senior Manager for Hi-Rise Management. Tara Johnson and Mela Krick then took questions.

Mela.Krick@stpha.org or 651-292-6183

SAFETY & SECURITY REPORT

Sgt. Darryl Boerger, St. Paul Police Department, ACOP Unit reported that he was assigned to ACOP on July 1st and has been with the Police Department for twenty-four years with a background in community policing. One officer, Officer Mohamed Dahir was added as of September 9th. Along with two Community Liaison Officers (CLO) there are twelve in the ACOP Unit. There will be a retirement at the end of November and the replacement is to start on December 2nd, bringing the unit back to full staffing.

Sgt. Boerger will be working with Youa Thao to get on the schedule for every resident council meeting to provide annual training. This year's topic is going to be the new marijuana law including fentanyl precautions. Sgt. Boerger has heard there was interest in this topic. As of August 1st, consumption is legal but there are many restrictions and the laws are likely to be updated. These topics will be discussed in the training.

Edgerton has been experiencing unsheltered folks sleeping in the stairwells. Starting this evening ACOP will be putting in time to address the issue. Also, likely within a month, a new Officer in Residence (OIR) will be moving in at Edgerton. If there are any questions Sgt. Boerger can be reached by phone at 651-331-0510 or by email at darryl.boerger@ci.stpaul.mn.us. He then took questions.

darryl.boerger@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-331-0510

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PC Election. Youa Thao, Resident Council Coordinator thanked all the applicants who sent in an application and stepped up to become a President Councils officer. These are the names and hi-rises of the individuals that will become officers this year. Leonard Thomas from Seal, Jason Bruce from Exchange, Yasmine Aminou from Central, Teresa Souvannachack from Montreal, Aado Perandi from Wabasha, Melissa Pappas has volunteered to return as Peer Treasurer. Youa Thao sworn the officers into their roles.

Youa Thao addressed the membership and asked, do you give your loyal support to this committee whom you have chosen to lead this organization and making this administration a successful one, if so, please say, I will. Representatives from Central, Dunedin, Edgerton, Exchange, Hamline, Iowa, Montreal, Neill, Ravoux, Seal, Valley, and Wabasha all responded I do. Youa Thao then welcomed aboard the new officers.

Jason Bruce, Exchange, made a motion to accept, allow and approve the appointment of Melissa Pappas, Seal as our returning Peer Treasurer. Melanie Fox seconded and the motion carried.

2. 2023-2024 Budget Proposal. Melissa Pappas, PC/RPC Treasurer, Seal went over the Presidents Council 2023-2024 proposed budget. As approved by vote, the proposed budget as read, will be posted for thirty days, and then voted upon at the next meeting.

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.

RESIDENT INITIATIVES REPORT

Alicia Huckleby, Resident Initiatives Director & Human Services Director reported that it is fantastic to see so many familiar faces and a lot of new officers at the individual buildings. The core group are those that are the bridge, the connectors for a lot of the new officers. When it comes to established processes, to how meetings are effectively run, to encouraging your fellow officers to volunteer for our peer groups and other subcommittees, Youa is appreciative of the assistance and support and guidance that she receives from the core group as well as the assistance the core group gives to others in their own building.

Over the summer Beth Pacunas has transitioned and is now also involved with the Computer Team. Also, Betsy was working with the resident councils to help councils with health/wellness related initiatives making use of existing Allina Health grants. Alicia is very excited to work in a new capacity with Leonard Thomas who is going to be sworn in this week as our new hi-rise commissioner. She looks forward to working with us and thanks us for our service. Alicia then took questions.

Alicia.Huckleby@stpha.org

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 has moved into a broader position, but she is still working to provide resources and training at the PHA for employment, job skills training, education, micro-grants, scholarships, anything that will move residents forward toward employment or careers.

Beth has fliers available at the hi-rises, which are distributed with the help from resident volunteers. Last year 7 or 8 students took the Personal Empowerment course offered by Twin Cities Rise - Empowerment Institute. The course was successful and helps students with confidence building, self-esteem, reentering the job market after covid, changing careers, finding new jobs, getting bill paying jobs, all of which helps students get into the new employment landscape.

Beth is working with Twin Cities Rise to offer the course again. Contact Beth with any questions or comments you may have about the Personal Empowerment course.

If we have any questions regarding employment, education or training please contact Beth at 651-298-4929.

HIP REPORT

Betsy Christensen, *Health Improvement Programs* (HIP) Coordinator, had a few updates. Betsy reported that she coordinates various health and wellness initiatives.

Upcoming Fall & Winter programming:

- Wilder Living Well class options – minimum of 8 participants
 - Living Well with Chronic Conditions
 - Living Well with Chronic Pain
 - Living Well with Diabetes
 - Tai Ji Quan
 - Walk with Ease
- Ramsey Co Recycling – on-site interactive session to learn more about recycling
 - Ramsey County will attend future Resident Council meetings and then schedule a session for this fall/winter
- Allina Health Stroke Education and Awareness – Allina Health will table at sites to share stroke education resources.
- Trellis Senior Linkage Line – Trellis staff will attend Sept, Oct or Nov Resident Council meetings to share information about Senior Linkage Line. We will schedule ‘Snack and Learn’ sessions.
- Bike MN free bike repair pop-ups – Bike MN will host free bike repair pop-ups at Mt Airy family, Exchange, Central, Ravoux and Front this fall.
- Cub Pharmacy Flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics – Cub will offer on-site vaccination clinics this fall.
- Medical Assistance Renewals presentation with Southern MN Regional Legal Services – SMRLS staff will attend October or November Resident Council meeting to give presentation about medical assistance renewals.
- Metro State nursing students are working at Seal hi-rise as well as Mount Airy family this semester for their community health project.
- Concordia University physical therapy students will be at Wilson hi-rise this fall doing balance screening and falls prevention efforts.
- Books for Hi Rises – Thank you Mindy Johnson from Cleveland Hi Rise for sharing brand new/advanced reader copy books for all Hi Rises. RI staff distributed a box of new books to each Hi Rise in August.

If there are any questions about any of the above programming, please contact Betsy. 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 thanked the officers for stepping up to serve in their positions.

Please turn in Resident Council picnic receipts and picnic form along with unused picnic funds, preferably by November.

No further Presidents Council business was discussed or conducted, and the meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Youa.thao@stpha.org or 651-228-3205

Submitted by:

Aado Perandi
PC/RPC Secretary

MEETING REMINDERS:

(Meeting through Zoom)

Next Presidents Council Meeting:

Monday, October 23, 10:00 a.m. – Noon.

Executive Committee Meeting: Thursday, October 12 @ 11:00 a.m.

Computer Team Meeting: Thursday, October 26 @ 1:00 p.m.