

RPC Meeting 10/18/13

Attendees: Kathy Hicks, Mary Peterson, David Owens, Adam O'Connor, Mary Rivet, Lauree Stolarczyk, Miss Henry, Jonathan Murray, Lisa Lee, Karen Arnold, Joyce Tolbert, Gary Laskowski

PHA/RPC funding:

We get \$15 per unit in funding to spend. (PHA gets \$10 per unit.)

We need to decide what to spend this year's funding on.

PHA uses the funding for things like furniture vouchers, birthday cards, youth programs, tool loan program, family site computer labs. (These last few things are for the family sites.)

Long term expenditures that benefit a large number of residents are easier to get approved.

The profit and loss report for July through October 17th was looked over.

A question was asked about transportation reimbursement. Individual resident councils are responsible for reimbursing for transportation to trainings and some meetings.

It is possible that people could get reimbursed for meeting transportation.

Kathy Hicks made a motion to reimburse people for travel to meetings. (Such as RPC meetings.) Adam O'Connor seconded.

There was discussion about how much should be put in the budget for this. Reimbursement rates are different depending on whether you drive, take the bus, or take Metro Mobility. Mileage is reimbursed at .55 per mile.

\$200 was suggested.

Kathy amended the motion to say that the reimbursement amount would be up to \$200.

Motion carried.

We will have to be more careful with meeting refreshment expenditures because of the new fund changes. Refreshments for meetings can only be light snacks. Refreshments for all day trainings can be more substantial.

The proposed budget was looked at. (The RPC part of it.)

Total RPC expenses come to \$19,120.87

Lauree Stolarczyk made a motion to increase the RPC hi-rise funding by \$300 by decreasing resident council training expenses and peer trainer stipends by \$150 each. Lisa Lee seconded.

Motion carried.

A question was raised about an adjustment to postage spending because the upcoming raise in postage rates. That is a PHA funding issue and not a concern of RPC.

Lauree Stolarczyk made a motion to accept the amended budget. Adam O'Connor seconded. Motion carried.

RPC Fund use:

A server and setting up a VPN were suggested by the computer team. The VPN would make it easier to troubleshoot some problems remotely.

Kathy Hicks made a motion to table this for now.

It was mentioned that decisions need to be made before the next RPC meeting.

A business class server would cost around \$3000

Router replacement could cost around \$3800 with additional antennas included. (External antennas. These would increase wi-fi signal strength.)

Assistive technology was suggested.

Dragon Naturally Speaking and Jaws were mentioned. Those would be helpful. There are issues with Dragon though. It has high memory and storage requirements. It also works best in a quiet room. (Community rooms aren't always quiet.) There also may be issues with different voices and ways of speaking.

A question was asked about the advantages of having a VPN. Updates could be done remotely. Programs like DeepFreeze and Babylon could be run over the network.

Getting garbage cans/recycle bins for common areas was mentioned. Recycle bins could be obtained from neighborhood/community councils.

Laundry room cleaning is an issue. This might be something for resident council funds though. This would be a job for someone and get more people involved.

Cleaning trash chutes was mentioned. That and the trash room is maintenance's responsibility.

Getting new scanners and printers was brought up. Good printers are pretty expensive though. (\$1800 for one Dell model.) Options are being looked for. We are looking for laser printers.

Computer training was mentioned. The Ross Grant team is working on that. (There is a basics class at Seal this month.)

A projector is another possibility. That would cost just \$200 or \$300 dollars. The Ross Grant team/Citywide has one we can use. This would be an additional one for the hi-rises.

Portable PA systems were suggested. PHA will not fix current hi-rise sound systems anymore.

Funding can not be used for things like emergency transportation costs. We also can't leave funds uncommitted.

A craft cabinet is another idea.

Funding will be used for:

\$3000- Server

\$3800- VPN/routers

\$600- Software

\$300- Projector

\$500- Scanner

\$2000- Resident diversity materials

Computer Team:

New computers will be delivered next week. Eileen will be helping Aaron deliver them.

Every building will get one new computer. Buildings that have computers down will get refurbished computers donated by PHA. (These are extra computers PHA has that we updated and installed software on.)

There will be training on using the Babylon software. Trainings will be set up at every hi-rise.

We might be able to get Office 365 for \$36 per hi-rise from TechSoup. Paperwork would need to be

submitted for each hi-rise. This would be a one time administrative fee.
Hi-rises can request up to 50 items per three year period.

Next meeting: December

**PCs for People:
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