

## RPC Meeting 5/16/14

Attendees: Ruby Steward, Mary Peterson, Adam O'Connor, Mary Rivet, Jesse Thomas, Lisa Lee, Karen Arnold, Connie Lydon, Eileen Tittles, Alicia Huckleby, Melissa Pappas, Miss Henry

### **PHA/RPC funding:**

The budget spreadsheet was gone over.

The RPC funding the PHA gets is split between the hi-rises, the family sites, and the PHA.

The draft 2015 PHA RPC budget was looked at.

An operating fund budget revision was approved at the April board meeting. \$25,000 was approved for resident initiatives. \$15,000 was earmarked for training.

Thanks were given to the RPC committee for how good it has been at planning and getting things done. The audit was fine except for three findings totalling \$37. (One was a \$2.00 overpayment for transportation.)

The second half of the PHA funds has been distributed. Picnic and flower fund funds are yet to be handed out.

Special call grant funds need to be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Unused funds can be offered to a building that didn't receive as much originally. (Fund amounts depended on building .)

The \$30,000 for the buildingwide wi-fi project are still to be spent. The computer team is still looking at options. (The original options were not feasible because of ongoing monthly costs.) Currently the team is looking at beefing up the wi-fi in community rooms.

Miss Henry made a motion that funds can be adjusted in categories but not exceed the original amount. Mary Rivet seconded. Motion carried.

### **Other discussion:**

A question was asked about a possible grant that could be used to increase resident participation in events.

That is questionable. Most grants need a specific plan to be laid out when you apply for them. (This sounds like an open ended grant is needed.)

There are a variety of ways to encourage participation. Not all of them cost money. Small stipends might be helpful though. (Other options are small gifts or just certificates.)

Distribution of food was discussed. Only distributions that are organized through the HSC are allowed.

There are concerns about the safety of food items that could be left in community rooms. (One site had dairy products left out. Other sites have had issues with expired food being left.)

Thanks was said for the new recycling bins that hi-rises have received.

### **Gardens:**

This fiscal year there are additional funds for raised garden beds at hi-rises that want them. A hi-rise can get four raised garden beds. The beds are cedar and are ADA compliant. Gardening tools and sheds will also be purchased. Compost bins are also an option as well as garden training. If you want the raised garden beds you will need to accept the training and other things that come with it. (compost bins etc.)

Someone on the garden committee will be required to report to the council regularly. These beds must also be used for growing some vegetables. (You can have some flowers in them though.)

The raised gardens at Ravoux and Hamline cost between \$1500-\$2000 each.

It may be possible for hi-rises to get discounts at nurseries if they join their local gardening group.

This can be featured in the Community Insider. (It will likely be in the summer issue.)  
Wiring around the beds was asked about. (Squirrels and rabbits getting into things could be an issue.)

**Fund for interpreters:**

PHA is no longer going to pay for interpreters at meetings. They feel that council funds should pay for that.

One option is finding someone who lives in the building who can interpret for non-English speakers. Finding volunteer interpreters from local colleges or places like the International Institute is another option.

Funds for interpreters could be put in the budget.

Sign language interpreters are needed at some buildings.

This will be discussed at the Presidents Council meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Officers luncheon:**

The luncheon will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Wellstone center.

The Ross Grant team is working on a presentation for it. It will include showing the 'One Day on Earth' video and an interactive activity.

There will also be a humorous Presidents Council video shown and the Community Building song.

Invitations have been sent. RSVP as soon as possible.

***Next meeting will be in September***