

RPC Meeting 3/14/14

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

PHA/RPC Funding:

The 2013-2014 budget spreadsheet was looked at.

Every hi-rise has gotten the first half of their PHA funds. The second half will be distributed soon.

Every hi-rise has gotten their RPC funds.

Only \$3671.74 of the special budget call grant funds have been paid out at this point. The rest of those funds need to be spent by June.

Funds remaining can be pooled to help a hi-rise that needs a little more money in able to purchase something. Hi-rises that haven't spent those funds yet will be receiving a letter soon reminding them that the funds need to be spent soon.

Some of the office expense categories will be changing when the Presidents Council moves to the second floor office space. There also may be some purchases of things like a new adding machine. The Presidents Council will have its own copier on the second floor. This will be good because there will be no more paying PHA for paper and copier use. (This hasn't been a big problem but there does appear to be some under-reporting of use.)

We will be getting funding for a picnic again this year. There are some concerns about how the funding was used last year. Some hi-rises might have used those funds for a 4th of July or Labor Day event instead of a special summer picnic. Picnic funds can be used for food purchases unlike regular PHA funding. (Additional funding needed for a picnic needs to come out of hi-rise funds.) It needs to be made clear that this funding is for a special picnic event and not something else. If a hi-rise decided not to have a picnic they need to return those funds to PHA.

It was previously decided that there will be separate picnics again this year. Miss Henry brought up the point that some hi-rises decide not to have a picnic when it is done that way. (As opposed to having an all-hi-rise one.) Jesse brought up the issue of non-residents at hi-rise events. The Presidents Council decided that would not be allowed because it would unnecessarily complicate things.

There are several fund categories with negative balances. Eileen is going to ask at the Presidents Council meeting to move funds from categories with excess into those categories.

Line items need to be added for things like Quickbooks training and secretary training. We also need to think about upgrading our version of Quickbooks. The 2011 version will no longer be supported by Intuit after May of this year. This means some features like online banking will no longer work. That isn't a major issue for us since we don't use those features but it is something to think about in the coming months.

We have \$18,000 to allocate.

Additional possible expenditures: Recycling containers, new printers for the hi-rises, hand sanitizer dispensers for the hi-rises.

Printers are a big request. Several hi-rises have already purchased new printers.

Wireless capability would be good. Also support for Windows 7 and Windows 8.

\$7000 could be carried forward for printers. (If new printers were \$300 each that would be \$4800.) Hand sanitizer was mentioned again. Ravoux already has a dispenser in their exercise room. That was paid for with Allina grant funds.

Resident Councils would be responsible for paying for the sanitizer refills. (Refills cost \$11-\$13 per bag.) The Walgreens partnership could possibly help with this.

Buying toner for the hi-rises was suggested. Buying paper in bulk was also suggested. An issue raised was who would distribute the paper. Hi-Rises could send someone down to pick up the paper. (Transportation could be an issue here.) Paper could also be distributed at Presidents Council meetings.

Eileen will be looking into costs for printers, paper, recycling containers. Alicia will be checking into hand sanitizer dispensers.

Allocations:

\$7000- Printers

Additional Grant:

We are still working on the buildingwide wi-fi project. The big issue in going forward is the cost of bandwidth. A possible cost for bandwidth is \$10 per resident a month. That would be \$700 a month at Wabasha. That is not viable at this time. (Upfront costs are doable but the ongoing cost would be the problem. PHA will not help with monthly costs for wi-fi.)

Putting our own routers and repeaters in and providing service is another option. Bandwidth for that would be around \$100 a month but the signal might not be strong enough to provide decent service for a whole building.

Melissa wondered if the \$10 a month per resident would be doable if most residents were willing to pay and if the resident councils helped out if needed. The issue with that is who would be in charge of collecting funds and what would be done if someone didn't pay.

There would need to be a contract residents would sign and agree to abide by. There would still be the issue of enforcement and residents who don't want Internet service.

Getting a grant to help cover costs is another option.

It would be good if there was an option for discount Internet service for residents without children. (Comcast has a plan like that but you need to have one or more children on the free lunch program.)

Officers Luncheon:

The luncheon was discussed. Because of the change in what PHA funds can be used for the luncheon would have to be made more of a community building or educational event so that food purchases would be allowed.

Charging partners for seats was also mentioned. (Outside groups, not council officers.)

Using Wilder's space was suggested. (They are located around University and Lexington.)

There is the option of keeping it the same if councils paid out of hi-rise funds and that amount covered the catering. (If it was educational they could use PHA funds as well.) It's possible that wouldn't cover the food though.

The issue of the event not being as much of a thank you was raised. (Also that some people might not like it as much if it was more of a training.)

We still need to keep the luncheon fun as it has been.

Recognition could be done on a Resident Council level. (Some of that is covered by volunteer recognition.)

Vendors:

We need to be careful when dealing with vendors. Call a member of the vending team or Ann Tranvik

if an issue come up.

Residents should not be making deals with vendors. Vendors also should not be trying to bribe residents before contract votes.

There need to be vending machine I.Ds in the contracts. There also needs to be a copy of their certificate of insurance.

Next meeting will be in May