

City Wide Resident Council Board Meeting December 23th, 2024 at Mt.Airy Community Center

CALL TO ORDER

Angie Williams called the meeting to order at 5:53pm and took a roll call of all City Cide Council Members and PHA staff members. Hula Teka (acting Vice Chair), Angie Williams (Secretary), Michelle Newell (Treasurer, was absent), Jewara Hussien (member At-Large,) Abeba Tesfai (member of Mt.Airy Council), Nayeli Oliro-Velez (member of Mt.Airy council) Khadar Osman (PHA Staff).

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Angie Williams explained the meeting minutes from the previous meeting held on December 9, 2024, and reported that the minutes can be found on the City-Wide website. The board approved the minutes. The first motion was made by Hula Teka, and the second motion was made by Jewara Hussein. The motion passed.

GUEST SPEAKER

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

Michelle was not present at the meeting. She will give her update at our next meeting.

PHA RESIDENT INITIATIVES STAFF

Khadar Osman, Resident Initiative Coordinator, reported that there is a financial training starting on January 6 – March 14, 2025, with the opportunity to earn your Securitas Essential (SIE) certification, which opens doors to high-paying jobs. Classes will be held online Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Questions can be directed to 651-379-5837 or outreach@gesmn.org at Goodwill-Easter Seals, 533 Fairview Ave N, Saint Paul, MN 55104.

The Mt. Airy Computer Lab is open every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Thursday from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM, with one volunteer available on Thursdays. The McDonough Computer Lab is open every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. There hasn't been much traffic at these labs, but a few residents have come in to print paychecks, bank statements, and related documents. Starting April 1, 2025, PHA will no longer issue paper checks. Khadar has notified all council members to provide their direct deposit information before that date. A Science Fair will be held at the Roosevelt Community Center, but the time is still being worked out with the Science Museum of Minnesota, and details will be provided soon. Khadar then took questions.

OLD BUSINESS

The election will be held on January 9, 2025, to fill these roles. McDonough Resident Council – Spring Fling Event – The Board discussed the Spring Fling Event and is unsure whether it will take place at McDonough or Mt. Airy this year. An update will be provided at the next meeting. Offering Hair Dressing and Nail Classes for Residents. The board also talked about the possibility of offering Hair Dressing and Nail classes, as residents would likely appreciate these opportunities. Khadar said he will ask Betsy Christensen about partnering with Saint Paul College Cosmetology or Metro State and will share more information at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The board has decided to apply for a grant from the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation, which is the Minnesota community grant partner of the Bush Foundation. This program will provide \$1.6 million annually to eligible organizations based in and serving Minnesota, as well as the 11 Native Nations in the region. The program is set to launch in January 2025, and organizations will be able to express their interest by submitting a brief electronic form.

The board recognizes that this grant aligns closely with the mission and vision of the council, which represents low-income families within the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency. The council is dedicated to improving the quality of life for its residents by advocating for equitable resources and opportunities. By applying for this grant, the council aims to secure funding that will support its ongoing efforts to provide essential services, foster community development, and enhance the well-being of families living in public housing.

The board agreed to submit the grant application on January 8th, during the election event at the Mt. Airy Community Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Updates about the grant will be provided at each subsequent meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM. The first motion was made by Abeba Tesfai and seconded by Jewara Hussien

REMINDERS

City Wide Board Meeting: Monday February 10, 2025, at 5:30pm – 7:30pm TBD

