



THE RECORD OF THE CHARLESTOWN RESIDENTS' COUNCIL

January 2, 2018

Residents' Council Website: ccicharlestown.org

President Steve Harders called the regular meeting of the Residents' Council [the Council] to order at 7:30 p.m. on January 2, 2018. The December 5 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

63 association members attended. Visitors included residents, Charles Denton, member of the Board of Directors, and Clara Parker, Executive Director. The Council observed a moment of silence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Steve Harders

I have four Mission moments today, all of which reflect the community spirit at Charlestown:

- You can't but marvel at the traditional holiday decorations put up by the residents and staff alike. They surely produced an inviting and festive atmosphere. So, thanks to all the decorators.
- The holidays are supposed to be a period of joy. They can be depressing for residents who are alone and have nobody to visit them. The offer "don't eat alone on Christmas day" is a perfect antidote. So, thanks to the group of residents who reach out to the lonely and bring them the cheer of companionship.
- The Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame inducts annually 50 nominees into its ranks. During the most recent celebration, 5 new members from our community were enrolled, that makes 10% state-wide. They are: Tony Ellis, Howie and Sara Nixon, Valerie Ponsini, and Roberta Poulson. So, thanks to them and their dedication to community service, and congratulations on their achievements. There was a spontaneous round of applause.
- As you heard announced in the last session, the Council held its annual social in December. The Catering Department provided food and some beverages in cans, which normally would go into the trash along with other leftovers. The staff does not have the time to separate recyclables. Enter our Vice President, getting himself a garbage bag, collecting those cans, and taking them to his apartment for pickup on recycling day. Thanks, Wendel, and I encourage you to follow his example when you are attending similar events.

The Mission moments are followed by announcements. I have three of them:

- The time has come to think of gaining new members for our Council. Janet Allan has accepted the chairmanship for the Nominating & Election Committee, and Joni Guhne will join her as assistant Chairman. They are recruiting members for their committee, whose names will be released as soon as I get them. Thanks and good luck, ladies, in getting a good crop to run for the Council.

- Ed Piechowiak has agreed to chair the Staff Appreciation Committee for this year, following in the footsteps of Pat Kasuda, who is off to new challenges. Thank you, Ed, and good luck for collecting a solid amount for our employees to brighten their holidays later this year.
- The Council committees will resume their normal schedule after the December break. In addition, also as usual, the Executive Committee will meet tomorrow, January 3rd, at 9:30 AM in the Council Office, and our monthly Council Work Session will be held on Monday, January 8, at 2:00 PM in Brookside Classroom 1. Nathan Blumberg will be our featured guest.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Wendel Thompson

The Vice President has nothing to report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Ed Piechowiak

At the council work session on December 11 we were pleased to have Clara Parker as a guest. She was able to provide a brief summary of the status of Charlestown and Erickson Living and answered a number of questions raised by the council members. Among the questions was the change to the transportation policy. With many rumors floating around the campus it was pointed out that there were still a number of uncertainties in the plan which was still being deliberated.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Al Davies

Since the last report to Council I have written two checks. However, since this meeting is on the second of the month the PNC report may not be in. Therefore, I can have copies of the monthly report available for the Work Session on January 8.

The dues campaign for the Residents' Association will kick off in April. The \$2 dues per resident funds the effort of the Council to pass on the concerns of the residents to the administration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BENEVOLENT CARE: Jean Eichenlaub, Chairman

Our committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be Jan. 24 in CTS-116 at 2:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS: John Murnane, Chairman

The Communications Committee did not meet during the month of December. The next meeting will be on January 22, 2018

CONSERVATION: Bill Tilles, Chairman

The committee met on Dec. 19. In attendance were six members of the Committee; Michelle Fenn (staff), three guest.

Monthly Statistics: November: Recycle: 24.58 tons; Trash: 75.81 tons: 139 lbs of batteries. We lost some recycled material tonnage due to recycle truck breakdowns and driver absences.

Michelle Fenn reported that we will be paying \$30/ton for recycling after Jan.1, 2018. There was no charge up until this point.

Bert Clegern reviewed the section of his book, Eco-Charlestown, entitled The Indoor Environment, pp. 19-21 in which he highlights the "4 R's of Conservation," Recycle, Reduce, Reuse and Restore.

Recycle, our current practice of separating recyclables from trash for weekly pick-up;
Reduce use of energy, water, pesticides within our apartments;
Reuse items by donating clothing and household items we no longer need;
Restore equipment, appliances, and furniture through skillful maintenance.

Marty Tewksbury, focusing his efforts on recycling, reported that he is already meeting with staff regarding how to better communicate with residents about what is and what is not acceptable for recycling.

The recycling of old or unused medications can easily be done by obtaining a postage-free mailer envelope from CVS to dispose of unwanted medications. Detailed instructions are included in the envelope.

Our Committee is supporting the Pollination Committee to produce programs about solar power and its future. There will be a presentation on solar energy in the auditorium on February 13.

Note: Wendel Thompson set an example recently by collecting empty soda cans at an event here at Charlestown. He was taking them back to his apartment where he would put them out for recycle pickup. Restaurants don't do that. Thanks, Wendel.

DINING SERVICES: Carolyn Thompson, Chairman

The dining committee did not meet in December. However, the restaurants did have their monthly coffees, so this report covers their information that affects the whole campus.

- Recruitment and hiring of new servers to help staff at all restaurants has taken place and their training has been a collaborative effort across campus.
- Training is focusing on assuring a proper sequence of courses, so you don't get your soup with your dessert. Getting your coffee/dessert has been a problem.
- Reopening of Signature Dining at the Chesapeake has relieved wait times at other restaurants.

- The new coffee service has been delayed due to the need for new electrical service to be installed. Service should start in January or February.
- The Menu Focus Groups at each restaurant have met and gave many suggestions for the new menus which will be coming out January 7-9.
- The weekly specials add variety to your choices and the restaurants are open for suggestions for the specials. Bring them to the next Menu Focus Group meetings.
- The need for more variety of vegetables, especially greens, will be addressed on winter menus. Have sweet potatoes more frequently.
- Large-table-party-seating is a problem and more chairs cannot be added to what the table is set for. The more people at a table, the longer the wait time.
- Running out of a product is being worked on.
- Rollout of walkers/rollators/valet program is ongoing.
- It is Scholar Season, so encourage your server to apply.
- Remember if you have a problem, the time to address it is the moment it occurs.

Keep in mind that everyone is encouraged to attend the monthly coffees.

Next meeting is January 15, 2018.

FINANCE: Gil Fisher, Chairman

The Finance Committee did not meet in December. Colleen Stafford, Assistant Finance Director, did provide the November Occupancy Rates and Financial Reports. Occupancy Rates for November were over 98% for each of Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care. Skilled Nursing Care was 88.5%, about the same as October.

The November Financial Report for operating revenue is again good. The high occupancy rates account for high operating revenue.

Operating income had a large positive variance from budget. This was primarily due to a successful outcome of Charlestown's appeal to Baltimore City of a utilities bill. The revised water bill is back to normal.

Under non-operating income, investment income was good, a positive variance of \$900,000.

There are no concerns with the balance sheet.

Turning to restricted funds, 14 received assistance in November for benevolent care. The expenditures were about \$68,000 (still high).

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 30, at 8:30 am in Brookside Classroom 2. The agenda will include a brief review of 2017 totals.

Council Minutes_OFFICIAL_20180102

GROUNDNS: Ted Durr, Chairman – Joni Guhne, Assistant Chairman presenting

Ted Durr is on a trip to India. The grounds committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be Jan. 23 at 10:00 am in the General Services conference room.

HEALTH SERVS: Louise Dempsey, Chairman

The Health Services Committee did not meet in December.
Our next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2018 at 11am in HR142.

HOUSEKEEPING: Diane Lyons, Chairman

Our committee did not meet in December. Our next meeting will be in HR142 on January 19 at 2:00 pm.

LEGISLATIVE/ POLITICAL: Anne Erfle, Chairman

The Legislative/Political Committee did not meet in December 2017.

The next committee meeting will be held on January 10, 2018.

MAINTENANCE & ENGINEERING: Ken Jarboe, Chairman

The Maintenance & Engineering Committee did not meet in December, 2017. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 23, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the General Services Conference Room.

RESIDENT LIFE: Fran Ashby, Chairman

The Committee did not meet for the month of December. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 2pm in HR142.

SAFETY & SECURITY: Veronica Coleman, Chairman

The Committee did not meet in December.

The statistics for November are: Pendants-1034, Pull-Cords-589, Smoke Alarms-247, Citations-75, Batteries-63, 911 Calls-74. Total calls-2,264.

The statistics for December are: Pendants-1007, Pull Cords-495, Smoke detectors-203, Batteries-138, Citations-191. 911 Calls-108. Total calls-2,071

There were no new EMVs registered in November or December.

The next meeting will be at 1:00 pm on January 23, 2018 in Brookside Classroom 1.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

WORDS FROM MANAGEMENT: Clara Parker, Executive Director

Clara made the following announcements:

- Conversations with Clara and the executive team will be held on January 8 at 1:00 pm in the Refectory, a new venue for this meeting. There will also be a Town Hall meeting later this month to present the findings of the Holleran survey to the residents.
- A 135 page report was received today regarding the improvements to Lake Charles and surrounding area. It was noted that Baltimore County has some responsibility for this project and a partnership with the County is anticipated. Steve interjected that there was a case of someone who went out on the ice at Lake Charles to break the ice and free a bird that had been stuck there. Definitely not a good move since the ice is too thin to support someone.
- A cold weather warning was given due to the very cold conditions we are experiencing. We were advised to stay indoors unless it is necessary to go out.
- The transportation information has been disseminated with a cubby flier. Reportedly some people did not get the information which will be sent again. The information was also posted on 972 and will be added to the residents' web site. We were again informed that the information will be modified as reports on the way the changes are working are considered.
- The St. Charles front desk will be closed on Sundays starting on January 14, 2018.

President Harders adjourned the formal meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Ed Piechowiak, Residents' Council Secretary
Sherry Stewart, Residents' Council Assistant Secretary