

**The Simkin/Weinberg Resident Council
Minutes**

**Thursday, January 19, 2017
1:30 p.m.
Boardroom**

ATTENDANCE

Residents:

	X		X		X
	X		X		X
	X		X		X
	X		X		

Simkin Centre Staff:

Cindy Greenlay – TR & Support Services Mgr (Facilitator)	X	Tana Ducharme – Social Worker	X
Irwin Corobow - CEO	X	Janet Conrad – Executive Assistant	X
Food Services – Valerie Burachynsky	X		
Sara Reid – Assistant Director of Care	X		
Alanna Kull – Director of Care	X		

Board of Directors:

Marilyn Regiec	X
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The December 2016 meeting was cancelled

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order.

1. Welcome & Introductions:

- Cindy Greenlay introduced herself and stated that her role is to facilitate Resident Council.
- Cindy reminded everyone that we may not agree with everything that is being said, but everyone has a right to their opinion. Everyone was asked to talk about the issues in a respectful manner.
- Those present introduced themselves.



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2. Budget:

- The October 2016 and November 2016 budgets were presented.
- In October, the beginning balance was \$2,794.19. The monthly interest earned was \$42.31 and we spent \$69.06 for bird seed. The balance for the end of the month was \$2,767.44.
- In November, the beginning balance was \$2,767.44. We earned a monthly interest of \$42.52 and received \$43.00 for the table rental. The only expense was \$40.00 for magazines. We purchase large print Reader's Digest magazines and also we receive new magazines 2-3 months after they are new on the shelf. The balance for the end of November was \$2,812.96.
- Cindy explained that when we rent tables, we ask for 10% of their income up to a maximum of \$50. All we do is provide the vendor with the table.
- Cindy reminded residents that we are a non-profit organization and we shouldn't have much money in our account. She explained that the money spent should benefit the majority of residents.
- Irwin reminded everyone that Resident Council agreed at the last meeting that no money would be spent until more floor games were purchased. We received a donation to be used towards the purchase of games. The budget is being reviewed to determine what account it should come out of. Cindy will know exactly how much money we have to spend by the next meeting so that a decision can be made for this purchase.
- A recommendation was made to invite a Jewish violinist to perform at the Simkin Centre. This recommendation was made by Marilyn Regiec and her father. Marilyn will provide the contact information. Cindy explained that with any entertainer, we will try anyone at least once. If people like them, then we have them back.

3. Correspondence:

- Grandfather Clock Donation – Some residents suggested sending a thank you letter to the person who donated the beautiful grandfather clock, located in the just at the breezeway leading into the Simkin building. The man that donated it has moved into the Simkin Centre. The family has asked that we wait a little bit before sending a thank you. He is still getting used to living here and that it is not going to be in his house anymore. This will be put on the pending items.
- Thank you letter to Brian Minaker for leading the Family Christmas party – Cindy read the prepared letter out loud and residents signed the letter.
- A thank you letter was received from the Alzheimer Society for the Resident Council donation made to the Coffee Break campaign.



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- A suggestion was made to thank the children from St. John's Ravenscourt Court School for reading with residents in December.
- A suggestion was made to thank the children from the Brock Corydon School for singing to resident in December.
- A suggestion was made to thank the Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood for serving cookies and beverages during Hanukkah.
- A suggestion was made to thank the Bat Mitzvah Students from Lubovich for bringing the Lego menorah.

4. Length of High Holiday Services:

- It was brought to Cindy's attention by residents that the High Holiday Services are too long. In particular, the Sukkoth services. The services last about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Cindy has spoken to Steven Hyman. Steven leads these services.
- Resident Council asked that in addition to speaking with Steven, they wanted to send a request in writing asking him to limit the time for the services to 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- Cindy will send an email, on behalf of Resident Council, making this request.

5. Centenarian Celebration – January 23rd:

- This is a birthday party we have every year for any resident who lives here who has turned 100 years old or more.
- We've invited a number of dignitaries to come to our celebration. The Minister of Health and the MP for this area. The Vice-Chair from the Simkin Centre Board of Directors will also be saying a few words.
- All residents are invited. January birthdays will also be acknowledged. Cake will be served.

6. Mensch on a Bench:

- Cindy explained the concept to the residents. The Mensch was shown to residents along with pictures of his most recent travels.

7. Classical Connections Feedback:

- Classical Connections is the program that takes place on the last Monday of every month. We are fortunate to have high end, classical music presentations.
- Harry Strub is a professor at U of M and runs the program called "The Virtuosi Series". He gets classical musicians from all over the world.



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- They have asked us to prepare a letter supporting this program and sharing how much it means to the residents. This letter will be a part of their grant request to continue the program.
- Cindy asked if those residents who do attend Classical Connections would be interested in providing us with some feedback that can be used in the letter.
- The letter will be prepared and brought to the next Resident Council meeting to be read and approved.

8. Flood Update:

- In early December, a pipe burst in the Amenities area where the Housekeeping, Laundry and Maintenance Departments are. Residents may not have noticed that this happened.
- There was a lot of water that did a lot of damage. We are still repairing walls and floors.
- The one area that did impact residents was the call bell system. The RTLS is not working because the water poured into the computer room, shutting all computers down, which include the RTLS.
- When this happened, we didn't have phones, internet, or access to computers. Everything has been restored except the RTLS. Residents may have noticed that there was a new lanyard given to them. This is a temporary call bell system. All units in both buildings are using this temporary system. We are working on a permanent solution.

9. Daffodil Sale – March 15th:

- Every Spring Resident Council sells flowers. Sometimes we sell Tulips and sometimes Daffodils.
- This year, we have committed to selling Daffodils. Resident Council sells the flowers and monies raised goes towards Cancer Care.

10. Donation of dog biscuits for “Dog Cookie Day”:

- February is Dog Cookie Month. The Recreation staff met and wondered if Resident Council would be interested in donating the supplies to make the dog cookies. Residents who are interested can help to make the biscuits and then we would donate them to the Humane Society or Manitoba Mutts.
- The cost is approximately \$25.00. Residents thought this was a good idea.
- A suggestion was made to sell the cookies in the Atrium for about 1 hour, then donate the rest.

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11. Forks:

- Residents brought in three forks from their unit to show everyone. The teeth on the forks are bent very badly. Residents cannot eat with them.
- Valerie Burachynsky thanked residents for bringing this to her attention. She plans to bring these forks to her next staff meeting to show staff. She will make sure that staff are more aware of this and stop cutlery that is bent from going onto the units.

12. Use of Disposables in the Facility:

- Irwin explained to residents what is considered disposables. As the CEO, he is responsible for managing the budget for the facility. After reviewing the budget, it was identified that we spend up to \$50,000 a year to purchase disposables.
- Food costs have been increasing every year, but there has not been any additional funding to cover this increase.
- Valerie reported that although we cannot completely eliminate the use of disposables, we can significantly reduce their use. This will help us with our budget, as well as the environment.
- This means we are in the process of purchasing more regular dishes so that we don't have to rely on disposables when we are running out of dishes during mealtimes.
- Irwin stated that we will no longer make disposables available to families when they bring food into the Centre.
- The napkins we currently use are very thin and flimsy. We also use a paper placemat for every meal. The cost, per year, to use these placemats is \$8,500 per year. The decision was made to stop using the placemats and purchase a better, thicker napkin. The residents thought this was a good idea. They would like to use a nicer napkin.
- A cloth placemat will be used for Shabbat and will make Shabbat special.

13. Update on Resident Decision Making:

- Every two months we report to Resident Council about the progress we are making to improve our services so that residents are more involved in decision making about their care.
- Valerie reported that the Food Services Department has started a series of meetings with a small group of residents to talk about food. Two meetings have taken place.

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- They are asked about what changes they would like to see take place. The feedback has been very helpful. We hope to make positive changes to the menu and other areas of Food Services as a result of these focus groups.
- When the meetings have concluded, Valerie will take the information and prepare a report to share with everyone.

14. Code Red – Residents’ Responsibilities:

- When residents hear “Code Red”, it means that there is a fire. Cindy explained why we conduct fire drills.
- Residents do have responsibilities, which are outlined in the policy that Cindy reviewed with residents.
- Drills provide staff opportunities to practice what should be done in case of a fire.
- The reason why this policy is being brought to Resident Council is because (1) residents were not sure what to do when a fire drill happens, and (2) the policy needs to be reviewed and updated.
- Some changes were made based on resident feedback and some discussion. Residents are to remain where they are and wait for direction from staff. Elevators are not to be used during a fire.
- The policy will be reviewed with the Disaster Team and updated in the Emergency Response Manual.

15. New Bingo Card feedback:

- We have a new bingo system. This was a big deal for us. We now have new bingo cards that are larger have slide windows. Cindy asked residents how they liked the new system.
- Resident comments were that they worked very well.
- The room arrangement seemed to work really well. The screen can be seen much better.
- Irwin reminded residents that the new cards and equipment were made possible because of a generous donation from a family member whose mother used to be a resident. That resident really enjoyed playing bingo.

16. Resident Doors Closing Automatically:

- At the last meeting a resident asked about changing each resident door so that the door would close automatically.

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- Cindy researched the cost and said that it is very costly to install automatic closers for 200 rooms. This is also not a cost that is justifiable because not every resident want this feature.

Reports:

17.1 Nursing Department

- Alanna reported that on Weinberg 1 we still do not have a Unit Coordinator. Interviews were conducted, but they were unsuccessful. We continue to advertise for this position and have more interviews scheduled.
- In the next few months, some residents will be asked by the nursing staff to help us trial a new assessment tool. We are required to do suicide screening. When someone is admitted to the Centre, this will be an assessment that nursing staff will be doing with a new resident. We've been asked by the WRHA to help trial some of the tools for this process that will be implemented soon.
- There were no questions for nursing.

17.2 Spiritual Care Department

- We are making plans to celebrate Tu B'Shevat. Tu B'Shevat is the celebration of trees in February. Instead of planting a tree, we plant bulbs, re-plant potted plants, etc.
- In March, the holiday of Purim takes place. Cindy told residents to get their costumes ready.
- There were no questions.

17.3 Therapeutic Recreation Department

- One of the ideas that was brought forward was to go to the Winnipeg Art Gallery's Inuit Art display. We need 8 residents to fill a bus. Recreation will start a list to see if there are at least 8 residents interested in this outing.
- Cindy reported that the Recreation staff will no longer be making breakfast on the units. What we found was happening when Recreation staff were making breakfast, they ended up being the cook. The purpose of having Recreation staff is to sit and spend time with residents. As a manager, Cindy found that staff were spending more time making food than spending time with residents. This will be effective February 1st. There will still be food outings.
- In the month of February, we are planning a program called "Going to the Oscars".



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- The staff switched floors. Cindy encouraged residents to approach TR staff on your floor if they have any ideas or things that they want to try.

17.4 Dietary Services Department

- Valerie reported that the Dietary aides will be switching floors. They are going to do this after Passover (in 3 months). Dietary aides stand in the little kitchen on your floor and hand the food out to the people who take it to your table.

18. Beefs, Bouquets, and Suggestions:

- A resident said that the musicians that performed for Classical Connections were really good.
- A resident voiced on behalf of her co-residents who she sits with in the Dining Room, that they were disappointed about the food at the table. Valerie offered to meet with the residents to discuss this. The resident will bring this back to the group.
- A resident made several suggestions on ways to improve the bathing experience. Placing heaters in the tub room because it is cold was suggested. Maybe re-paint that area. Heated flooring was also suggested. Also, change the color on the walls. These suggestions will be brought to the Leadership Team for review. This will remain on the agenda.