



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 7, 2019, 11am

(Rescheduled from cancelled February 28 meeting.)

Present | Bill Siedhoff (Chair), Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Karl Wilson, Theresa Mayberry (via phone), Chauncey 'Skip' Batchelor (via phone)

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Bill Kuehling, Stephanie Herbers

Welcome and Review of Minutes (Bill Siedhoff)

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve the January Board Minutes. Sr Mary Ann Nestel seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Chair and Governance Committee Reports (Bill Siedhoff)

Senate Bill 208 | Discussed legislation that proposes to remove renters from eligibility for Circuit Breaker tax credit program. It was heard and passed in the Ways and Means Committee. Advocates are contacting legislators and Governor's office to share how the program is needed for renters and to not support it. Jamie Opsal reached out to Clay County to discuss reaching out to the other 54 county funds to encourage them to advocate for how the program affects their residents. Other options the Senior Fund board could consider are a letter to the editor and encouraging other organizations to share how their clients are affected by the program, this includes programs that we support such as the National Council on Aging benefits check-up. Suggested contacting editorial board to write an op-ed piece with authorship by Jamie and Bill S. and contacting other funding agencies to bring the legislation to their attention.

Karl Wilson made a motion to authorize officers of the board and staff to advocate against the legislation. Theresa Mayberry seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Board members also discussed revisiting opportunities to incorporate advocacy in the Senior Fund's regular activities, this would include being a partner in building a state-wide advocacy network based on a model established in Kansas City. The Missouri Foundation for Health should release their next round of policy grants in March. If the Senior Fund would like to support network development, a host organization will need to be identified; Jamie has a few ideas.

Karl Wilson made a motion to authorize and direct Senior Fund staff to pursue partnerships or assistance in the creation of a separate advocacy organization for senior issues in the

Notetaker: Stephanie Herbers

state of Missouri, in addition to seeking outside funding. Theresa Mayberry seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Change in State Statute | Representative Donna Barringer introduced HB 1054. Senator Karla May has received information on the bill to consider supporting. It has not been assigned to a committee yet.

Next Steps ► Once hearing is scheduled, staff and any Senior Fund board members available will plan to attend. Bill S. will send letter to Speaker of the House about the proposed legislation. Bill Kuehling will contact Mayor's office to request a letter of support.

Legal Consultant Report (Bill Kuehling)

Better Together Proposal | If the current proposal were to pass, it is unclear on how tax levies will be worked out. They could remain within the geographic boundaries of the tax districts when it was approved (e.g., special taxing district) or need to go up for a new vote to be applied to the entire county.

Treasurer's Report (Theresa Mayberry)

Reviewed proposed FY20 projected revenue and budget. Total programs investment is budgeted at \$1,632,587 for the upcoming fiscal year. Based on first year of operations and anticipated expenses for new items (e.g., auditor, 2nd staff member) keeping budget conservative. Added a line item for board designated projects to allow the Senior Fund to support needs of organizations that arise outside of the Fund's scheduled funding cycle.

Theresa Mayberry made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Karl Wilson seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Next Steps ► Budget will be presented to the Board of Aldermen for final approval.

Program and Grant Committee Report (Karl Wilson & Jamie Opsal)

2019 Grant Applications | Currently reviewing 2019 grant applications, working towards finalizing approvals and under obligation with selected applicants before the end of the current fiscal year.

Length of Term for Grants | Discussed recommendation from the committee to shift from a 1-year cycle to 3-year cycle. Three years are not guaranteed but would be an option if grant is successful; success defined in part as meeting the goals of the program funding area. Recommend writing as a new policy communicated publicly; a process for renewal will be developed and finalized by the board. If an organization receives a grant in one focus area, it does not preclude them from receiving funding for a different focus area.

Karl Wilson made a motion to support a 3-year funding cycle for grants, carried out with grant renewals in 2nd and 3rd years of grant. Sr Mary Ann Nestel seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Next Steps ► Staff will draft a grant renewal policy and process for board review and approval.

Board Designated or Applicant Defined Grants | Discussed recommendation from the committee to allocate funding each year that can support organizations outside of the scheduled funding cycles as long as grants support the mission of the Fund. Staff would have discretion to respond to organizational requests as needed (e.g., an organization needs a small amount of matching funds to receive a grant from another organization).

Karl Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendation and begin allocating funding for this purpose. Seconded by Sr. Mary Ann Nestel. Board unanimously approved.

Next Steps ► Staff will draft a process for receiving and approving these requests; will present to board for review and approval before finalizing.

Executive Director Report (Jamie Opsal)

Seniors Count Executive Committee Meeting | Jamie is serving as a point of contact to help convene an initial meeting to review timing of a new campaign for St. Louis County. If there is a commitment to pursue, someone within the committee would organize the effort. Jamie and board members may serve in an advisory capacity but would not commit time to organizing any efforts.

Retirement Research Foundation | RRF invited Jamie to be part of panel at the next Grantmakers in Aging conference in fall 2019 to present with other senior levy funds. Have not finalized panel yet.

Site Visits | Completed 9 of 17 site visits. Discussed examples of progress reported by grantees. Deaconess Faith Community Nurse Ministries reported getting residents access to \$25,000 in benefits, with other benefits pending. Other benefits check-up grantees are reporting similar numbers. HOPE helped 29 residents move into senior subsidized apartments, two of them were homeless. Oasis is using a portion of their funds to concentrate classes in a new location for them in the City at New Northside Family Life Center; there is a waiting list for their classes. Rebuilding Together has invited board members who want to see the houses receiving repairs on their May Rebuilding Day to attend. Grants are progressing well.

Meeting Adjourned 12:08pm.

Next Meeting: April 25, 10am, at the Department of Mental Health.