



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 10am

Present | Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Karl Wilson, Bill Siedhoff, Cynthia Crim, Skip Batchelor, Ann Bannes

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Susan Kabat, Renita Duncan, Alisha Barnum

Welcome and Review of Minutes (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Karl Wilson made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Chair Report (*Bill Siedhoff*)

State Statute | No updates on work to align the Senior Fund's state statute with other St. Louis City tax funds in the new legislative session.

Request for Pledges and Letters of Support | Board discussed two requests for pledges of support. One from the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition (NEUAC) to electronically sign a letter of support, that will be shared with US Congress, to maintain and improve the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The second request from the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative to be listed as a partner/supporter of the coalition.

LIHEAP Request – LIHEAP is an important resource for preserving uninterrupted utility service and maintaining temperatures inside someone's home. Older adults, young children, and people with disabilities can have a harder time adjusting to extreme temperatures and thus are the targeted recipients for the program. In a recent National Energy Assistance survey, nearly half of the respondents reported that one or more persons in their household were age 60 or older. Many older City residents, including some served by our grants, rely on this program.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve showing support for LIHEAP by electronically signing on to NEUAC's letter, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

STL Vacancy Collaborative Request – The collaborative is a coalition of partners that support vacancy reduction in St. Louis. Partners include individual residents, private and non-profit organizations, and St. Louis City agencies. Older residents are affected by vacancy issues in

Notetaker: Stephanie Herbers

a number of ways. The Senior Fund's program manager, Stephanie Herbers, has been participating in the Collaborative's working group focused on Vacancy Prevention. The Senior Fund financially supports fall prevention and economic security programs that prevent vacancy by supporting older residents to remain living in their current homes. Other efforts of the collaborative members align with approaches the Senior Fund would advocate for including coordination across services, estate planning, vacancy prevention education, and reduction of current vacant properties.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve being listed as a supporter of the St. Louis Vacancy Collaborative, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Presentation of FY18 & FY19 Audit (RubinBrown: Renita Duncan & Alisha Barnum)

Summarized the Senior Fund's audit in terms of process and results. RubinBrown audited financials for December 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019; the first two fiscal years for the Fund. The auditors gave a clean, unmodified, opinion. In addition to reviewing the financial statements, they also reviewed best practice recommendations for the Senior Fund board and staff to consider; three out of four have already been implemented to date.

Cynthia Crim made a motion to accept the audit as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Financial Report (Susan Kabat)

Reviewed 2nd quarter financials; in December the Fund started receiving the bulk of tax revenue collected for the year. Overall the Senior Fund is on track with what is expected for this time of year.

Karl Wilson made a motion to accept the financial statements as presented, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report (Jamie Opsal)

Update on Annual Report | Staff have finished the content for the report and are working with a graphic designer on layout. The report will include background on the establishment of the Senior Fund, descriptions of residents served and outputs/outcomes for FY2019 grants, and FY2018 and FY2019 condensed financial statements. A completed draft will be shared with the board for review.

Update on Senior Levy Association | Jamie is working with the executive directors of the Platte and Clay County senior levy funds to outline the purpose of an association, develop a budget, and assess interest among the other 52 counties in forming an association. There is a similar association for disability levy funds that has operated for 40 years, the Missouri Association of County Disability Services.

Closed Session

Cynthia Crim made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed executive board session, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved. Meeting Adjourned 11:17am

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 27, 10am, St. Louis City Senior Fund/St. Louis MHB Offices