



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2020, 10am

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

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Bill Kuehling, Susan Kabat, Reese Moore

Welcome and Review of Minutes *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to adopt the May meeting minutes as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Board Member Renewals and New Member *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Executive Board Term Renewals | Sr. Mary Ann Nestel and Skip Batchelor's appointments to the Board were up for renewal; they both committed to renewing their terms and were sworn in earlier in the month. They will begin four-year terms starting July 1.

Open Board Position | Compiling new board member recommendations to provide to the Office of the Mayor for a final decision on appointment. Welcomed suggestions to be given directly to Bill Siedhoff.

Program and Grants Committee *(Karl Wilson)*

FY21 Fund Defined Grant Renewals | Karl Wilson presented a list of grant renewal recommendations for current Fund Defined grants focused on fall prevention, economic security, social isolation, and homemaker chore services. At the Board's February 2020 meeting a total of up to \$1,319,435 was authorized for grant renewal awards in the Fund Defined category. A resolution was presented to approve renewals to begin July 1, 2020. The resolution would appropriate up to \$1,246,521 for grant renewals in FY2021 to the agencies on the presented list up to the amounts designated for each. It also authorized the Board Chair and Executive Director to enter into contracts with the awarded organizations up to the amounts specified to carry out the proposals.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Notetaker: Stephanie Herbers

Emergency Fund | The Senior Fund FY2021 budget was created in January before the board and staff knew of the Covid-19 pandemic. There is currently \$100,000 in the budget within Program Investments allocated under an Emergency Fund to be used for emergency needs of senior centers and other nonprofits and government agencies serving City older residents. Based on requests submitted to the Regional Response Fund, updates from Senior Fund grantees, and other sources, needs for personal care items, cleaning supplies, PPE, and support with accessing food (e.g., meal delivery) will continue to be needed through the summer and into fall due to Covid-19 for City residents.

Jamie Opsal proposed that the funds budgeted under this line item, plus any unspent dollars budgeted for Fund Defined grants, be allocated to address Covid-related needs during the fiscal year. Senior Fund staff would work with the Program and Grants Committee to develop and carry out a RFP and review process for applications to distribute these funds beginning in late summer or early fall.

Karl Wilson made a motion to support dollars allocated to the Emergency Fund line item up to \$100,000, and any other unspent program investment dollars, to be appropriated to address Covid-19 related needs in FY2021. In addition, the Executive Director would be authorized to award grants up to \$10,000 for an individual organization without prior approval of the Executive Board. Cynthia Crim seconded. Board unanimously approved

Legal Counsel Report (Bill Kuehling)

Investment Policy | Reviewing investment policy options with the Fiscal Committee and projecting a general spending plan for the Senior Fund for the next several years. The Fund is currently receiving some interest from the current bank account, along the line of existing CDs. A policy is needed to guide the best way to manage the Fund's revenue, while keeping revenue accessible to spend for program investments in a transparent and sustainable way to serve St. Louis City older residents. A policy will be completed for review and approval at the September board meeting.

St. Louis City Covid-19 Data (Stephanie Herbers)

Presented current data on Covid-19 related cases and deaths in the City of St. Louis by age, race, and ethnicity. Older residents and Black residents are disproportionately affected by Covid (i.e., significantly higher rates of cases and deaths compared to younger residents and in particular white residents). Stephanie also presented an Index that she developed to start to confirm geographic areas in the City that should be prioritized for any Covid-related dollars that the Senior Fund distributes. The index included indicators of number of older residents in each zip code, as well as indicators related to increased risk for severe illness and mortality, and potential challenges related to stability of housing, accessing information and resources, and isolation.

Board discussed specifically identifying target zip codes for any emergency funding opportunities released, as well as identifying Black-led organizations the Senior Fund currently supports, as well as those who do not currently receive funding, but serve older City residents, for outreach when funding is available. Staff will work with the Program and Grants Committee to finalize priority geographic areas and compile information requested.

Executive Director's Report *(Jaime Opsal)*

Reviewed highlights from the executive director's report. This included receiving approval from the Board of Aldermen for the Senior Fund's FY2021 budget and an update on the FY2018 & 2019 annual report distribution. The statewide advocacy network is beginning to meet again. Reese Moore, an intern working with the Senior Fund for the summer, is working on advocacy-related information for current issues that can be used by the statewide network, the Senior Fund, and the regional Breakthrough Coalition.

Other Announcements

Behavioral Network Initiative | Karl Wilson and Jamie Opsal have been consulting with the Behavioral Health Network on the Behavioral Health Network's collaboration with the Missouri Department of Mental Health on an application to FEMA to support community behavioral health services related to Covid-19. Older adults will be one of the priority populations for outreach about these services. Service support will begin in July; they should have more information to share soon. Jamie also recently joined BHN's Adult Services Advisory Board.

Having no other items for discussion, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karl Wilson seconded; Board all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:18am.

Next Meeting September 24, 2020.