



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 10am

Present | Cynthia Crim, Karl Wilson, Ann Bannes, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Skip Batchelor, Julia Allen

Absent | Bill Siedhoff

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski, Bill Kuehling, Susan Kabat, Sen. Steve Roberts, Timothy Griffin, Gerry Connolly

Review and Approval of Minutes *(Cynthia Crim)*

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for September as presented, Julia Allen seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Recognition of Missouri Legislators *(Cynthia Crim)*

Invited co-sponsors of legislation that adjusted the state statute to the meeting to recognize them for their support. The statute allows the Senior Fund to align the budget approval process with other St. Louis City tax funds and allows the Senior Fund to apply for grants without prior approval of the Board of Aldermen. Representative Baringer was unable to attend, but Senator Roberts was in attendance. Board thanked Senator Roberts for his support and then the senator shared some updates on legislation and other issues he is working on in support of St. Louis City older residents. This includes legislation in support of a property tax freeze for seniors he filed last legislative session, SJR 23, and plans to revisit in the upcoming session.

Program and Grants Committee *(Ann Bannes)*

Emergency Grants for Organizations | At the Board's September 2019 meeting, a new program investment category, Emergency Funds, was approved. The decision supported a small portion of budgeted program investments each year to be allocated to offer support when organizations serving older St. Louis City residents have an unanticipated event that is beyond the control of an organization, threatens the organization's ability to operate senior programs and services, and requires urgent or timely action. In February 2021 the Board approved a FY22 budget with up to \$200,000 allocated to this funding category. A process for accepting, reviewing, and approving requests for emergency grants was presented.

Notetakers: Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski

The Program and Grants Committee sought approval from the board for the following recommendations: the intent, criteria, funding requirements, and general process as outlined in the document presented and the process reviewing and approving grants based on funding amount requested. Specifically, it was proposed that the Program and Grants Committee would be authorized to approve grant requests for less than or equal to \$10,000. The committee would report any decisions to the executive board at the next meeting following the decision. Authority for approval of grants that were more than \$10,000 would remain with the executive board.

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve the process for accepting, reviewing, and approving emergency grants for organizations as presented, Skip Batchelor seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report (*Jamie Opsal*)

Business and Grants Manager | Jamie introduced the new Business and Grants Manager for the Senior Fund, Katie Ratkowski.

Update to Board Bylaws | Jamie presented a request to amend the board bylaws, specifically *Section 4: Notice of Meetings*, to reflect the more current practices of posting meeting notices for Senior Fund meetings online. If approved, the section would strike out that meeting notices would be physically posted in City Hall and add that public meeting notices would be posted on St. Louis City's public meeting calendar on their website and the Senior Fund's website. Notices would still be posted in the building where the meeting will be held.

Cynthia Crim made a motion to amend Section 4 of the board bylaws as presented, Karl Wilson seconded; Board unanimously approved.

MFH Opportunity Fund Update | Two proposals were submitted to Missouri Foundation for Health's Opportunity Fund. One led by St. Louis Area Agency on Aging with the Senior Fund as a fiscal partner and the other one led by the Senior Fund with Platte and Clay County senior levy funds as collaborative partners. The proposal submitted by SLAAA to support development of a multi-year business plan was not awarded. The proposal for the Missouri Association of Levy Boards and Senior Organizations was awarded a two-year grant that begins December 1, 2021. The goal of the grant is to accelerate the establishment of the association, expand the senior levy network, and support opportunities for policy and other systems change that could improve services for older adults in Missouri. Senior Fund will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant. The grant includes funding to contract with an individual or team to manage and carry out the efforts; Jamie is working on a RFA for the scope of work and will send that out soon.

Aging and Behavioral Task Force Update | The task force—co-chaired by Jamie, Lisa Potts (MHB), and Sally Haywood (BHN)—is working on wrapping up a recommendations report. The goals of the task force were to evaluate gaps in the safety net service delivery system and improve system coordination between the aging network and behavioral health providers, educate member organizations about available resources for behavioral health services for older adults in the St. Louis region, and develop recommendations to improve the system coordination between the aging network and behavioral health providers. Task force

members are exploring funding opportunities to continue the task force in some form and begin to pursue some of the recommendations, including funding to support crisis intervention services that are needed for St. Louis City older adults. Jamie will share the recommendations report once it is final.

Evaluation and Capacity Building Contracts with Cynthia Berry | Since the matter is not pressing, it was tabled for discussion until a future meeting. Will discuss at the next Program and Grants Committee meeting first and then revisit, as needed, at a full board meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ann Bannes seconded; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

*Next board meeting will be held via Zoom on **November 18, 10am.***