



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 10 am

Present | Bill Siedhoff, Cynthia Crim, Ann Bannes, Karl Wilson, Skip Batchelor

Absent | Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Julia Allen

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski, Bill Kuehling, Susan Kabat, Renita Duncan and Alisha Barnum

Review and Approval of Minutes (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October as presented, Skip Batchelor seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Audit Presentation (*RubinBrown – Renita Duncan and Alisha Barnum*)

Presented an overview of the FY2022 audit, which included an unmodified opinion on financial statements. There was an increase to grant income, nonfederal for two new grants one from Missouri Foundation for Health and the other from the St. Louis Mental Health Board's collaborative funding for the Behavioral Health Mobile Pilot. Tax revenue increased because of an increase in real estate tax and new funding. There were also increased expenses in accrued compensated absences due to a change in PTO policy and payout of excess days.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve the audit report as presented, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Legal Consultant Report (*Bill Kuehling*)

Recommendation for New Legal Council | Presented the process to review and recommend a new Legal Counsel to take over after Bill Kuehling's retirement. Jamie, Bill, and Cassandra Kaufman from the St. Louis City Mental Health Board and two of their Executive Board members interviewed applicants the week of December 12, 2022. All agreed that Matt McBride from Lashly Bear was the best choice for both organizations. Mr. McBride will be the main contact and should be accessible to staff and board members when needed. If approved, Bill will meet with him next week to begin transitioning the role.

Karl Wilson moved to engage Matt McBride from Lashly Bear as the St. Louis City Senior Fund's new Legal Counsel, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Notetaker: Katie Ratkowski

Financial Report (Susan Kabat)

Reviewed FY23 2nd quarter financials; in December the Senior Fund began receiving the bulk of tax revenue collected for the year. It is currently at 73% of budgeted amount and expected to get a large collection starting in January.

The Board asked the staff to look for ways to invest the surplus in the community. The team has implemented a plan to reduce the net position, but even with the plan in place, some funded organizations are spending less than budgeted. Staff will continue to work towards the goal by listening to the needs of partners and the community.

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

Program and Grants Committee Update (Ann Bannes)

Emergency Grant Decisions Update | There has been one emergency grant application since the last board meeting from Wesley House Association to support repairs for two vehicles used for transportation and meal delivery services. The Program and Grants Committee approved an emergency grant for \$3,523.

Senior Center Grant Submissions Update | The RFP was released in November, and 11 applications were received. Staff are currently reviewing the applications and will present to the Program and Grants Committee before full Board review at the February meeting.

Approval of Invitation to Apply/Renewals for New FY24 Fund Defined Grants | the grants focused on oral health, economic relief (through legal services), and exterior home maintenance are scheduled to end in June. The staff and Program and Grants Committee recommend the following:

- Inviting A.T. Still University to apply for up to three years of support for dental care services with an annual budget of up to \$250,000.
- Extend Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's grant agreement for an additional year and invite them to apply for funds in FY24 with a budget of up to \$100,000.
- Extend the exterior maintenance focus area an additional year, and grant staff authority to determine which of the four organizations to receive invitations to submit one-year proposals.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve the proposed FY24 Fund Defined Grant categories and the invitation to apply as presented, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Fiscal Committee Report (Karl Wilson)

Staff Medical Insurance | Medical insurance renews in March; the current provider rates are going up 8.91%. Another option would reduce the increase to 0.3%, but that would include significant cost increases to the staff. The Finance committee recommended continuing with the same policy at the increased cost, which would be an additional \$157.05 per month.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve maintaining the current staff medical insurance plan for the next year, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

MCOA Update | Jamie serves as the co-chair for the Missouri Council on Aging (MCOA). The organization hosts bi-weekly legislative calls during the legislative session that bring in organizations advocating for older adults. The first year of calls provided education that led to AARP introducing a bill to improve Missouri's Circuit Breaker program. The Senior Fund was invited to reapply for another two-year grant from Missouri Foundation for Health (MFFH) to continue the work of the aging and disability advocacy work for Missouri. Philanthropy Missouri will serve as the fiscal agent. MCOA was awarded \$297,355 from Missouri Foundation for Health for next two years, as well as an additional grant from Retirement Research Foundation for \$50,000 for MCOA's advocacy work. Marillac Mission Fund is funding \$10,000 per year for three years and Clay County Senior Fund is funding \$2500 for FY 23 and potentially another \$2500 for FY 24. The committee recommended the Senior Fund invest \$5,000 as a match to support the work.

Cynthia Crim moved to award \$5,000 to the Missouri Council on Aging to support Jamie's work as co-chair and the advocacy work being done for Missouri seniors, Skip Batchelor seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report (*Jamie Opsal*)

Tax Assistance Analysis Project | There are 17 bills currently filed in the House and Senate that would freeze assessments or provide exemptions for property taxes. The Senior Fund released a request for bids to provide a fiscal analysis of the potential impacts of the proposed policies. Two bids were received, from University of Missouri St. Louis's Community Innovation and Action Center and the Missouri Budget Project.

Jamie requested the authority to do the following:

- Allocate up to \$25,000 of funding budgeted for evaluation purposes to be used for a tax policy analysis project.
- Seek contributions from other potential partners.
- Make a final decision on proceeding with project, selecting an appropriate contractor if move forward, and enter into a contract agreement with them.

The end product would be a document that shows benefits and challenges to each scenario, for both older adults and The Senior Fund, as a recipient of tax dollars. Funds would come out of the needs assessment line item in the FY23 budget.

Karl Wilson made a motion to grant the Executive Director the authority to allocate up to \$25,000 for the Tax Assistance Analysis Project and move forward with seeking partners and selecting a contractor, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Other News (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Bill Siedhoff thanked Bill Kuehling for his service to the Senior Fund and wished him well in his retirement.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 am.

Next board meeting is planned to be held via Zoom on **February 23, 10am.**