



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 28, 2023, 10 am

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

Excused| Cynthia Crim

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski, Matt McBride

Public Hearing on Property Tax Rate for Senior Fund *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Opened hearing for resolution to set the tax rate at 10:02 am. No community members were in attendance who wished to comment. Comment period was closed at 10:04 am.

Board Vote on Property Tax Rate Resolution *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Resolution was presented to set the rate of taxation for the fiscal period beginning July 1, 2023 to \$0.0490 on each \$100 of assessed valuation on all real, personal, and other taxable property within the City of St. Louis. This rate is projected to result in \$2.5 million in revenue.

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve the property tax rate resolution as presented, Skip Batchelor seconded; The Executive Board voted as follows:

Ann Bannes – Yes
Sr. Mary Ann Nestel – Yes
Bill Siedhoff – Yes

Skip Batchelor – Yes
Karl Wilson – Yes

Review and Approval of Minutes *(Bill Siedhoff)*

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

Program and Grants Committee *(Ann Bannes)*

Matching Grant for Vehicles for Organizations | In May 2023, the Board approved funding categories and policies moving forward to support vehicle repairs and purchases, including a funding category for Matching Grants for Vehicles to be released in FY2024. The Program and Grants Committee recommended board approval to release presented funding guidelines and application for eligible organizations to begin applying for vehicle matching grants. Once approved, the guidelines and

Notetaker: Katie Ratkowski

application would be posted on Senior Fund website and sent out to the mailing list by September 29.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve funding guidelines and launch of application for matching grants for vehicles, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Revision to Emergency Grant Approval Process | Currently funding decisions under \$10,000 may be reviewed and approved by the Program and Grants Committee. The committee recommended approval to give staff authority to approve emergency grants under \$5,000 when urgent resolution is needed. The Grants Committee would be immediately informed of any approvals via email and the full Board would be notified at the next meeting.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to approve granting staff authority to approve emergency grants under \$5,000 when urgent resolution is needed, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Review Requests for Increase to Local Vehicle Match Grants | The Executive Board approved funding to serve as the local match for senior centers applying to the MODoT 5310 program in September 2019. Significant delays have resulted in two senior centers, City Seniors and Five Star Center, just now getting notice of vehicles available. The cost of the vehicle, or similar available vehicles has increased, so the 20% match has also increased. The senior centers requested an increased local match for the new 20% requirement, totaling \$13,932 in additional funding between the two centers.

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve increasing the funding match for City Seniors and Five Star Center MODoT 5310 local match grants, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Legal Counsel (Matt McBride)

Approval of Bylaw Changes | The changes to the bylaws that were presented in May and discussed further in June, but could not be voted upon because two-thirds of the Executive Board was not present, were presented for approval.

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve bylaws changes reviewed in May and June Executive Board meetings as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report (Jamie Opsal)

Endorsement of Improvements to Circuit Breaker | Missouri's Property Tax Credit Program, also known as Circuit Breaker, provides a credit related to property tax expenses for low-income homeowners and renters. There has not been a cost-of-living increase since 2008, so fewer people qualify. Stephanie and Jamie have been attending meetings led by Missouri Budget Project and AARP, who have asked organizations to come forward to support improvements to the Property Tax Credit legislation including a cost-of-living increase.

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve supporting updates and improvements to the Missouri Property Tax Credit Program, Karl Wilson seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Annual Conflict of Interest Statement | Executive Board members must complete a yearly conflict of interest form. Staff will send out the form today with all the organizations currently supported by Senior Fund

St. Louis County Senior Levy Fund | A Seniors Count Steering Committee has been established to consider/prepare for a senior levy fund ballot initiative in St. Louis County and will be led by Chris Baechle of Cardinal Ritter Senior Services. Jamie, Bill, and Sr. Mary Ann attended the meeting, where the committee discussed if it was a good time to put the initiative on the ballot. The committee members are currently fundraising for polling expenses. The committee will make a decision based on the polling in March to determine next steps.

Rams Settlement Fund | The City of St. Louis is requesting input on how to spend the Rams settlement funds. Board members will receive a link to the survey and are encouraged to complete it.

Office Open House | Senior Fund will host an open house at the new office for Executive Board members and partners with the Mental Health Board. Details will be shared once determined.

Open Executive Board Position | Julia Allen has resigned from Senior Fund Executive Board, effective immediately. She is resigning for personal reasons, not due to any issues with Senior Fund. Discussed forming an ad hoc nomination committee. Skip Batchelor and Sr. Mary Ann Nestel volunteered to serve on the committee. Jamie will outline a nomination process, including a call for board members that can be shared. The Board will review the nomination process before determining if a nomination committee is needed or if the nomination process should be carried out by the full board. Information about the open position can be shared informally while the process is determined.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am by a motion made by Karl Wilson and seconded by Sr. Mary Ann Nestel; all were in favor.

*Next full board meeting is planned to be held on **October 26 at 10am.***