



Executive Board

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2024, 10 am

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

Other Attendees | Jamie Opsal, Katie Ratkowski, Stephanie Herbers, Matt McBride, Julia Allen, Gerry Connolly (community member)

Welcome Mary Wheeler and Recognition of Julia Allen *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Thanked Julia Allen for her service to the Senior Fund and to the people of the City of St. Louis. Welcomed Mary Wheeler-Jones to the Executive Board. She worked with the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging and the Board of Elections. She has also served as an external grant reviewer for the Senior Fund in previous years.

Review and Approval of Minutes *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve the November and December meeting minutes as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Discussion on Northview Village and Heritage House *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Received updates about Northview Village and the displaced residents. Many residents were moved without any of their possessions. Jamie has been talking to Urban League or other partners about potential assistance for delivering items to residents at their new locations.

Heritage House is an apartment building on Olive that recently closed. It is our current understanding that the recent extremely cold temperatures led to heating shutting off and pipes freezing on the 11th floor. The burst pipes flooded the entire building, and the 80 residents are currently living in the Hilton Hotel by the airport. Most lost all of their possessions. The building is currently condemned and is not expected to be restored in the near future. Residents are expected to be out of the Hilton by January 31 due to other bookings that the hotel has. Bill and Jamie are joining a call with the City's Chief of Staff today to try to figure out the next steps for helping residents who are older adults. The City asked if Senior Fund could contribute funds to assist. There was \$174,000 set aside to help Northview Village residents, but staff are not expecting to spend more than \$40,000. There was a recommendation to hold \$50,000 for Northview Village residents and allow the remaining \$124,000 to be used to support the residents of Heritage House.

Notetaker: Katie Ratkowski

Karl Wilson made a motion to allow up to \$124,000 out of the Northview Village funds to be used to support Heritage House residents, Cynthia Crim seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Program and Grants Committee (Ann Bannes)

RFP for Housing and Economic Security Grants | The current fund-defined grants for Housing and Economic Security are scheduled to end in June. Housing and Economic Securing are the most requested areas for support, and to continue meeting this need, a new round of funding must place in FY25-27. Staff requested, and Program and Grants Committee recommended, releasing a request for proposals. They recommended a budget of up to \$900,000 for the first year of new grant awards, with the final amount determined after applications are reviewed and awards are determined in May 2024.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to release the RFP and accept applications for grants for Housing and Economic Security, with an initial budget of up to \$900,000, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Vehicle Matching Grant Requests | The Program and Grants Committee reviewed two requests to buyout electric vehicle leases, from Northside Youth and Senior Service Center and City Seniors. The two centers had the leases supported through a federal grant which ends in February and would like to purchase the vehicles. Grant committee recommended supporting the standard 20% match cap for vehicle grants, totaling \$70,824.

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve two vehicle matching grants to Northside Youth and Senior Service Center and City Seniors, at the amounts recommended by the Program and Grants Committee; Mary Wheeler Jones seconded. Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report (Jamie Opsal)

Northview Nursing Home Update | Jamie organized a meeting with the Consumer Voice, which is a national organization that protects the rights of people in nursing homes, as well as AARP, SLAAA, VOYCE the local and state Ombudsman program, and Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and MCOA to discuss potential policy strategies to try to prevent a situation like Northview Village from happening again in the future. Consumer Voice has a grant opportunity that provides direct support, technical assistance, and training to two states interested in advocating at the state level for increased transparency and accountability in nursing home finances and ownership. Consumer Voice will work closely with selected state advocates to help them develop and implement state-level advocacy strategies to achieve increased transparency and accountability in nursing home finances and ownership. We are currently convening a group of partners that would ideally oversee an application and an organization to take the lead in the application for this grant.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am by a motion made by Sr. Mary Ann Nestel and seconded by Skip Batchelor; all were in favor.

Next full board meeting will be **February 22 at 10am.**