



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 10 am

Present | Bill Siedhoff, Ann Bannes, Karl Wilson, Mary Wheeler

Excused | Cynthia Crim, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Skip Batchelor

Senior Fund Staff | Jamie Opsal, Katie Ratkowski

Other Attendees | Matthew McBride (Lashly Baer, External Counsel), Susan Kabat (MHB, Contracted Accountant), Bill Kuehling (External Consultant), Nicole Brueggeman (MCOA) Bridget Gittemeier (MCOA), Gerry Connolly (Community Member)

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

Opened hearing for resolution to set the tax rate at 10:22 am. No community members were in attendance who wished to comment. Comment period was closed at 10:26 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, 2024 to \$0.050 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 \$2.6 million in revenue.

Mary Wheeler made a motion to approve the property tax rate resolution as presented, Ann Bannes seconded; The Executive Board voted as follows:

Ann Bannes – Yes

Karl Wilson – Yes

Bill Siedhoff – Yes

Mary Wheeler – Yes

Review and Approval of Minutes (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Karl Wilson made a motion to approve the August minutes as presented Ann Bannes seconded; All were in favor of approving minutes.

Program and Grants Committee (*Ann Bannes*)

Vehicle Match Request | Presented request from Haven Recovery Gives Back for vehicle match grant. Grants committee recommended approving a grant award of up to 30% of the funding remaining to be raised, not exceeding \$12,000.

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve vehicle match award of \$12,000 for Haven Recovery Gives Back as presented, Karl Wilson seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Missouri Council on Aging Update (*Nicole Brueggemann and Bridget Gettemeier*)

Nicole Brueggemann presented an overview of the accomplishments of Missouri Council on Aging (MCOA) since its founding and Senior Fund's collaborative grant.

Nicole has met with state legislators to educate them about the needs of older adults in their home counties. MCOA has created policy priorities focused on Economic Security and Stability, including expanding local funds for essential services for older adults, protecting older adults from financial fraud and harm, and increasing investment in resources for family care providers. MCOA has secured a sponsor for a bill to increase the senior levy maximum the state statute allows from \$0.05 per \$100 to \$0.10 per \$100. They are also trying to expand the shared care tax credit. Through a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health, MCOA has created a customizable toolkit and other resources for any county interested in creating a senior levy fund.

There were questions about whether MCOA was doing any work around restoring funds for the state ombudsman program. State legislators are aware of the problems with nursing homes, especially because there have been additional closings in the state. MCOA is not currently in the State Capitol enough to bring the issue to the forefront, especially given the nursing home lobby which has a strong presence.

Executive Director Report (*Jamie Opsal*)

Vehicle Match Grant Award Changes | The two remaining senior centers approved for 5130 vehicle match funding in FY20 have been notified that the vehicles are now available to be delivered. Vehicle costs have gone up since the awards were approved four years ago. The senior centers are short \$8,555 total for the local match required to secure the vehicles:

- Southside Senior Citizens Center's local match increased from \$14,908 to \$21,055.
- Northside Youth and Senior Service Center's local match increased from \$15,000 to \$17,408.

Opsal proposed increasing the match award Senior Fund is contributing to meet the whole local match requirement.

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve the resolution to increase funding for two 5310 grants by \$8,555 total, Karl Wilson seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Potential Collaborative Projects | Senior Fund supported Northside Youth and Senior Service Center (NSYSSC) developing a feasibility study for a new center in FY2023. The study came back favorably, and NSYSSC has been working on fundraising since. As they continue in their organizational readiness, advance gifts, and capacity building phase of their plan, they are requesting \$40,000 (\$20,000 for FY25 and \$20,000 for FY26) from the Senior Fund to support contracting with a development director.

Karl Wilson moved to approve \$40,000, split evenly over two fiscal years, to support Northside Youth and Senior Service Center contracting with a development director, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Session

Karl Wilson moved to close the meeting for an executive session pursuant to Section 610.021(3), RSMo., to discuss personnel matters, Ann Bannes seconded. The Executive Board voted as follows:

*Ann Bannes – Yes
Karl Wilson – Yes*

*Bill Siedhoff – Yes
Mary Wheeler – Yes*

*Next full board meeting is scheduled for **October 24, 2024 at 10am.***