



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 10 am

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

Senior Fund Staff | Nicole Brueggeman, Stephanie Herbers, Katie Ratkowski

Other Attendees | Matthew McBride (Lashly Baer, External Counsel)

Review and Approval of Minutes *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve the November minutes as presented Skip Batchelor seconded; All were in favor of approving minutes.

Missouri Ethics Commission *(Bill Siedhoff)*

Every other year, the Senior Fund Board adopts an ethics policy resolution dispensing the need for individual board members from filing financial disclosures to the Missouri Ethics Commission, making the Executive Director the only individual required to submit an annual financial disclosure. Approval would extend the policy another two years.

Skip Batchelor made a motion to adopt an ethics policy that requires the Executive Director to be the only individual required to submit an annual financial disclosure to the Missouri Ethics Commission, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Cybersecurity Insurance Procurement *(Bill Siedhoff)*

At the recommendation of Senior Fund's IT contractor, staff collected three bids for cybersecurity insurance; all were similar in prices and offerings, but staff recommended going with a policy from Chubb with a dedicated insurance broker.

Karl Wilson made a motion to give the Executive Director authority to move forward with procuring a cyber security insurance policy, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Program and Grants Committee (*Ann Bannes*)

Emergency Grant Request | Presented memo detailing Southside Senior Citizens Center's emergency grant request. In November, Southside received notice that their commercial auto insurance would increase over 200% related, in part, to incidents outside of Southside's control. They are looking at new policies and other cost reduction options but requested funds to reduce the impact of the increase while figuring out a solution moving forward. The Grants Committee approved a grant award in the amount of \$10,000 at their January 14 meeting, to be distributed this month. Since the committee has authority to approve emergency grants in the amount of \$10,000 or less, no further action is needed from the board at this time.

Fund Defined Grants Ending in FY25 | Fourteen grant awards that support programs and services focused on social isolation, homemaker chore, and other care support services are scheduled to end June 30, 2025. After reviewing options with staff, the Grants Committee is recommending that we carry out a process for considering one-year extensions for Social Isolation and Homemaker Chore grants. An extension will allow for time in 2025 for board and staff to assess current strategies and identify adjusted or new priorities for funding moving forward and continue to support programs providing valuable services while Senior Fund strategies are under review.

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve moving forward with a process to consider one-year extensions for current Social Isolation and Homemaker Chore grants as presented, and give staff the authority to manage the review process. Mary Wheeler seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Any final decision for extensions will be determined by the board later in the year.

Executive Director Report (*Nicole Brueggeman*)

Leadership Transition Update | Nicole is reviewing policies and procedures with staff. Some updates will be occurring and presented to the Board of Directors at a later date.

Northside/Southside Development Updates | Northside Youth and Senior Service Center has received funding from Senior Fund to hire a contracted Development Director, approved at a prior board meeting, to assist with fundraising for new facility. The position has not been filled yet, but Northside is meeting other community funders to try to secure additional support. Staff are also in the process of scheduling a meeting with Southside Senior Citizens Center to discuss the federal community project proposal that was submitted in May that lists Senior Fund as the fiscal sponsor to prepare for next steps in case the project request is funded. Staff are also working on getting updates on where the community project request is in the review process. If awarded, Senior Fund will be the grantee. Staff and the Board discussed the responsibilities of this role and the areas of expertise that will be needed, should funding

be awarded. Board members suggested that consulting with local construction managers may be helpful if not already engaged by either senior center. Additionally, Nicole has met with the National Council on Aging's, National Institute for Senior Centers and they have identified a design/build partner that has experience in Senior Center design/build.

Given that this is different than the work the Senior Fund has previously done, Cynthia Crim recommended considering the development of a small advisory group of board members to oversee and provide support to staff and senior centers that are considering construction in which Senior Fund is involved in some way. The advisory group could also assess the role Senior Fund could play in projects like this, as more senior centers will likely consider construction projects in the future. Nicole will outline a plan for a potential advisory group and initial roles and responsibilities for Senior Fund in current projects for the board to consider.

MO Legislative Updates | Reviewed proposed changes occurring at the state level with board members, including Senate Bill 87, which proposes to decrease assessment of property value in the state from 19% to 17%. If passed, Senior Fund would be impacted with fewer dollars available to give to the community. Board members requested additional updates as they occur. They encouraged additional advocacy with partner funders and funded organizations to increase the quality of life of seniors in the city, including advocating at a state-wide level.

Strategic Planning | Board members discussed reviewing short and long-term strategies for the Senior Fund, including funding goals and overall organizational priorities, while considering staff capacity. Nicole will work on outlining a strategic planning process that could begin in 2025.

Jamie Opsal's Retirement Party (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Retirement party is scheduled in February and invitations have been sent to partners; space is limited for the event. Board members are working on securing ceremonial proclamations from the Mayor, House of Representatives, Senate, and Board of Aldermen.

With no further business to discuss, Ann Bannes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

*Next full board meeting is scheduled for **February 27, 2025 at 10am.***