



Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 10 am

Present / Cynthia Crim, Karl Wilson, Ann Bannes, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel, Mary Wheeler

Excused / Bill Siedhoff, Skip Batchelor

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

Other Attendees / Matthew McBride (Lashly Baer, External Counsel), Paul Sorenson and Hilary Sedovic (UMSL CIAC), Gerry Connelly (Community Member), Shelby Elliott (Community Member)

Review and Approval of Minutes (*Bill Siedhoff*)

Ann Bannes made a motion to approve the February minutes as presented, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; All were in favor of approving minutes.

Presentation – Heritage House Response Report (*Stephanie Herbers, Hilary Sedovic, Paul Sorenson*)

Stephanie Herbers introduced the report. Senior Fund contracted with UMSL to produce a report that captured an overview of the response activities in the three months following the evacuation of Heritage House residents in 2024 and summarized reflections from partners involved in the response effort, including recommendations for current and future action. Hilary Sedovic from University of Missouri – St. Louis's Community Innovation and Action Center presented a summary of the Heritage House After Action Report. Hilary and Paul Sorenson answered questions about the report. The report will be released to the public following Board review and decision for release at May board meeting.

Program and Grants Committee (*Ann Bannes*)

Senior Center Grant Requests / An RFP for new senior and community center grants was released in January 2025. Organizations could apply for support for capital and technology improvements up to \$25,000; one-time expenses such as planning for facility improvements OR repairs or purchase of equipment, technology, or other durable assets that maintain or strengthen a center's ability to serve older adults and

has a useful life of more than one year. The last time the Senior Fund offered this funding opportunity was Spring 2023.

There was a budget of up to \$150,000 for senior and community center grants for FY25. Nine organizations submitted requests for funding. Staff reviewed proposals and presented them to the Program and Grants Committee. The Program and Grants Committee recommended funding five grant awards, totaling \$93,704.

Recommendations were based on alignment with the intent of the grant opportunity and eligible expenses, extent to which organization operates as a senior or community center that facilitates access to free essential services, acknowledgement of the uncertain federal funding environment in 2025, and prioritization of building repairs and modifications, staff capacity needs, and efforts to reduce center expenses.

Sister Mary Ann Nestel made a motion to approve five senior center grant awards, totaling \$93,704, and give the executive director and board chair authority to execute grant agreements, Mary Wheeler seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Open Grant Opportunities | Given the uncertainty around federal funding, the Board discussed pausing two grants that are currently open to rolling applications, Emergency Grants for Organizations and Vehicle Matching Grants. Senior Fund staff will meet with partners to discuss needs; the unspent funding is planned to go towards future crisis response.

Ann Bannes made a motion to stop accepting applications for Emergency Grants for Operations and Vehicle Matching Grants for the remainder of FY2025, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Fiscal Committee (Karl Wilson)

Accounting Services Contract | Shared updated information regarding the search for an accounting partner. After contacting 15 organizations, three organizations showed interest and two submitted a proposal in response to a RFP. After meeting with the organizations, staff and the fiscal committee recommended moving forward with contracting with Anders, who is the only applicant with governmental accounting experience. Anders will take over a large portion of the accounts payable process, as well as serving in the controller role.

Karl Wilson made a motion on behalf of the fiscal committee to accept staff's recommendation to move forward with Anders for accounting and controller services, Ann Bannes seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Preliminary Tax Assessment | Every other year, Senior Fund must submit a preliminary tax rate estimate to the Assessor of the City of St. Louis. If not done, state law requires a 20% reduction in tax rates. Staff have completed the assessment and will submit with Board approval.

Karl Wilson made a motion to allow the Executive Director to compute and submit the estimated tax rate to the City Assessor on behalf of the Board, Sr. Mary Ann Nestel seconded; Board unanimously approved.

Executive Director Report (Nicole Brueggeman)

Board Planning Session Recap | Recapped conversations from Tuesday's planning session. The three main action items were to convene grantee partners to learn about concerns and opportunities for collaboration, pause any open applications for funding for the remainder of FY25, and to investigate what a pooled funding opportunity with other funders might look like.

Event Recap – Funding Landscape | Earlier in March, Senior Fund hosted a special convening with MHB and DD Resources on updates on the federal and state funding landscape, specifically focusing on changes that will have impact on local and state level programs and services funding. Presentations were given by Sheldon Weisgrau with Missouri Foundation for Health and Casey Millburg with the Mayor's Office. All organizations who have active grants with any of the four levy funds were invited to attend the event held at the O'Fallon Park Rec Complex. The event was well attended.

May Board Meeting Date Change | There is a conflict with the previously scheduled May 22 board meeting date, where the FY26 budget will be presented and approved. There was a request to move the meeting to May 15 at the same time; an email will go out to confirm availability.

Executive Session

Mary Wheeler moved to close the meeting for an executive session pursuant to Section 610.021(3) and 610.021(13), RSMo., to discuss personnel matters, Karl Wilson seconded. The Board of Directors voted as follows:

Ann Bannes – Yes

Cynthia Crim – Yes

Sr. Mary Ann Nestel – Yes

Mary Wheeler – Yes

Karl Wilson – Yes

*Next full board meeting is currently scheduled for **May 15, 2025 at 10am.***