

MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

Members Present: Gary Brown (Dent), Barb Schaller (Maries), Vicki Lange (Osage), Joanne Zap (MRCF At-Large), Don Brackhahn (MRPC At-Large), Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large), and Bonnie Prigge (MRPC Executive Director)

Members Absent: Catie Ringeisen (Crawford), Bobbie Berger (Gasconade), Mark Riefer (Phelps), Marilyn Odle (Pulaski), and Cindy Merx (Washington)

Staff Present: Maria Bancroft

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Vicki Lange called the meeting to order and led the members present with the Pledge of Allegiance at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The board members reviewed the minutes from the November 1, 2017 meeting. Brown made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Brackhahn. Motion passed.

Open Discussion on Community Grant-Making & Local Impact: The board discussed how MRCF's current grant-making fund has evolved and what impact it is making in the region. The group agreed that it is important that the grant benefits at least one recipient for each county. Each year there are more applications and the outreach appears to be expanding a little more each year. The board shared ideas on how the community grant could grow with larger grant amounts by having corporate sponsors donate towards a grant for the year. Brown asked for input on what marketing material we have to approach US Foods in Salem to give a donation to give more grants than the usual six grants each year. Bancroft offered to put together a sample letter for the board to use for corporate donations and sponsorships. The group agreed that there are needs in each of Meramec's eight counties that MRCF could make a direct positive impact through its grant-making fund.

MRCF Community Grant Making Fund: Bancroft updated the board with the current list of applications received. She has received six applications so far. Staff will resend information on the grant on MRPC's Facebook page as well as a press release in the region. Bancroft requested suggestions to continue to find ways to improve the grant process. Bancroft indicated that she will email the applications to the board on or shortly after the deadline on January 31st at 5 p.m.

In addition, Bancroft updated the board on the recent progress report from last year's recipient, Owensville Chamber of Commerce, on the organization's downtown benches project. There are two more reports pending from the six total recipients.

The board members discussed and asked on the exact available distribution amount for this year's grant. Bancroft told the board members present that she will verify that amount and follow up with the board by email.

MRCF Meeting Schedule 2018: Bancroft shared the meeting schedule for the New Year. She noted that the March meeting is our annual Invite-A-Friend luncheon at 12 noon. The board will review the community grant applications in February. The board will review scholarship applications in April. The annual board meeting will be in July.

Sustaining Membership 2018: Bancroft requested from the board for ideas on how to execute this year's sustaining membership drive. Ideas shared at the meeting included: 1) Contact past grant recipients; 2) Start an ongoing contact list; 3) Create a new letter by adding local stories of past grant recipients; 4) Ask for a specific dollar amount or have different levels of membership; 5) Plan on executing drive in May in lieu of Give Meramec. A suggestion was made to share with the board past sample letters from prior years.

MRCF Fund Balance Report: Bancroft presented the board with current fund balance report as of November 30, 2017. The current portfolio balance is \$1,341,935.30. There are two new potential scholarship funds to benefit Belle High School and State Technical College of Missouri. The total endowment for both scholarships will be approximately \$1.3 million.

Affiliate of the Year Tracking Update: The board reviewed the updated affiliate of the year tracking report. Prigge asked if the points earned for the two new board appointments can be counted twice for a total of 100 points. Bancroft said she will check on the points allowed for board appointment with CFO. Everyone present provided updates on activities completed since the last meeting in November. In November, one endowment fund was established (Leffler Scholarship Fund) and a town hall meeting on rural economic development in the Village of Chamois. Bancroft will add the regular board meetings held since August 2017 to the tracking sheet. Staff will schedule board member changes to CFO and webpage updates throughout the rest of the year for added points. The board discussed if the Donor Relations/Donor Stewardship activity can be applied for when communication is made to potential donors. Bancroft will ask CFO for clarification on that activity.

MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates: The board reviewed the final version of MRCF's goals and action plan for this fiscal year. There were no changes or updates to be made. Vogt made a motion to approve the organization's goals and action plan for this fiscal year as presented, seconded by Zap. Motion passed.

Chairman Lange asked for community updates from the members who were present. The following updates were provided:

Maries: Vogt shared that the Maries County R-2 Schools Foundation's Community Scholarship Fund annual steak night fundraiser is scheduled for March 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the Vienna Eagles Lodge. Prigge spoke with Dennis Williams regarding establishing an endowment memorial scholarship fund in honor of his mother. The family is unsure that the fund can be set up with the required \$10,000. In addition, Vogt and Prigge inquired about the Maries County R-2 Archery Club scholarship fund. There should be an additional \$3,800 added from the total on the current fund report from donation checks received. Bancroft will contact CFO to verify receipt of checks.

Phelps: The Rolla Senior Center Project for construction of a new facility is underway. The plan is to add a fund soon in the near future. Brackhahn asked about the contributions for the Rolla Dog Park Fund recently established with MRCF. He was told that there was about \$10,000

money raised so far to the project but it is not reflected in the current fund balance. He will visit with Kent Bagnall on the funds raised and provide assistance on the project's fund with MRCF.

Osage: No updates.

Dent: Brown asked for information to share with US Foods for corporate donations towards the grant-making fund. Bancroft will send Brown a sample letter to review and use for future correspondence with US Foods. The company could give a gift towards the community grant-making fund for this year's awards. However, if they company wanted to set up an individual fund for future grant-making, there would not be enough from the rate of return for an annual distribution in the short term with a small initial contribution.

Closing Remarks & Adjournment: Bancroft informed the board that she will email the group updates from the meeting and CFO's response to the specific inquiries. She also informed the board that Mark Riefer contacted her that morning regarding his term. He has not been able to attend meetings and make the commitment to continue with his term. Bancroft asked Riefer to provide the board with several recommendations for possibly nominees to replace his position for Phelps County. Prigge suggested Kent Bagnall or Loretta Wallis as possible candidates.

Being no further business, Vogt made a motion to adjourn the board meeting at approximately 10:38 a.m., seconded by Zap. Motion passed.

Approved by the board on _____, 2018

Vicki Lange, Chair

Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer