

**MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016

Members Present: Vicki Nelson (Maries), Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large), Bonnie J. Prigge (MRPC Executive Director), Joanne Zap (MRCF At-Large), Wayne Parry (Phelps), Gary Brown (Dent), Doug Dunlap (Gasconade), Marilyn Odle (Pulaski), Cindy Merx (Washington) and Catie Ringeisen (Crawford).

Member Absent: T.R. Dudley (MRPC At-Large).

Staff Present: Maria Bancroft

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Parry called the meeting to order and led the board with the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:32 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 2, 2015 board meeting were reviewed. Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Zap. Motion passed.

MRCF 2016 Grant Applications: *The board reviewed 13 applications that have been submitted for this year's community grant fund requesting \$2,935 in total grant funds representing Crawford, Gasconade, Maries, Phelps, Pulaski and Washington County. The board will select recipients to grant out up to \$1,500 of available funds:* Bancroft informed the board that the fund distribution available is \$1,476 and Gary Brown donated \$24 to the fund to allow each recipient to receive \$250 in grant funds. There were two applications there were incomplete from Gerald Engemann Memorial Garden and Ozark Quilt Trail (submitted after the deadline).

The board reviewed and discussed each completed application that was submitted for this year. After discussion and an individual vote of each board member's top two applications, the following grant applications were selected as this year's grant recipients. Nelson made a motion to approve the six selected grantees, seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.:

1. The Community Partnership in the amount of \$250 for the literacy program;
2. Pulaski County Growth Alliance in the amount of \$250 for the Route 66 Neon Park for Pulaski County Route 66 Preservation;
3. Osage Arts Community, Inc. in the amount of \$250 for flags for Belle downtown beautification project;
4. University of Missouri Extension – Dent County in the amount of \$250 for the Green Forest School Garden;
5. Kaleidoscope Discovery Center in the amount of \$250 for sweepers;
6. Assistance Association for Missouri Veterans Cemetery Fort Leonard Wood in the amount of \$250 for the Avenue of Flags project.

The board agreed to invite each grantee to the March board meeting luncheon to recognize each recipient and take photos for press releases. Staff will coordinate letters to each applicant, invitations to grantees and sending out an e-invitation to the board in the next several weeks.

Each board member will be responsible to pay for their lunch as well as any guests that are invited. The organization will pay for the cost for the grantees attending the luncheon. The cost per person will be \$10.

MRCF Fund Balance Report for December 31, 2015: Bancroft provided the board with a copy of the fund balance report for December 31st and January 31st, 2016. There are several new funds including the ABLE Senior Center, Rolla Nutrition Site, S.A.V.E. funds and Bacon Scholarship. The Ridenhour II Scholarship will be added next month once fund documents are finalized.

Give Ozarks Update: Prigge provided an update on the upcoming Give Ozarks event scheduled for May 3, 2016. There is still time to sign up for the event if there are organizations that are interested. Last year, the local organizations in Phelps County that participated there were combined marketing efforts with local media and businesses to promote Give Ozarks. This experience will hopefully lead to another joint effort for the organizations that are involved for this year's event. Parry asked the board to share information on Give Ozarks within their communities. Merx shared the Old Mines Area Historical Society's recent experience with establishing a fund for Give Ozarks. CFO is hosting seminars for training information on Give Ozarks for first time participants as well as past organizations.

MRCF Goals and Action Plan 2015: Bancroft provided a copy of last year's goals and action plan. She asked that the board review the information and share suggestions, changes, additions to the board at the April/May board meeting to finalize this year's goals and action plan.

Comments for the Good of the Order: Next board meeting/Invite-A-Friend MRCF Luncheon – March 2, 2016 at 12 noon at MRPC. Board members must RSVP by no later than February 26, 2015.

Adjournment: Being no further business, the board meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.