

# MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2015

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

**Members Absent:** Gary Brown (Dent), Joe Scott (Osage), Joanne Zap (MRCF At-Large) and T.R. Dudley (MRPC At-Large).

**Staff Present:** Linda Loughridge and Maria Bancroft.

**Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Parry called the meeting to order and led the board in the Pledge of Allegiance at 9:48 a.m.

**Welcome New Board Members:** Cindy Merx is from Washington County and has known John Robinson who has recommended her to serve on the board. She and her husband own a catering business and a mechanic shop in Potosi, MO. She is involved in several other local non-profit groups in her community and is interested in serving on the MRCF board to represent Washington County. Chairman Parry asked the other members to introduce themselves to Cindy Merx as well.

**Approval of Minutes:** The board reviewed the minutes from the July 29<sup>th</sup> annual board meeting. Dunlap made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Nelson. Motion passed.

**Recap of MRCF Annual Meeting 2015 w/ Comments and Suggestions:** Chairman Parry asked the group for their thoughts and comments about the results of this year's annual meeting. There were approximately 20 guests at the meeting. People enjoyed Michael Chatman as the guest speaker and he was very informative. There were new agency partners in attendance as well.

**MRCF Webpage/CFO Website Updates:** Bancroft asked for the board members' input of MRCF's webpage updates. There is new information posted including the new board members, 2015 community grant-making fund recipients and new photographs from last fiscal year. The webpage is [www.cfozarks.org/meramec](http://www.cfozarks.org/meramec) for board members to look at the page and provide any input in the future.

**Sustaining Membership Drive 2015:** Chairman Parry informed the board members that the organization received \$1,100 in gifts from the sustaining membership drive last year. The board agreed to present next year's sustaining members drive by having a brochure created by CFO's marketing department that can be given to professional advisors, CPAs and attorneys by each board member with a follow up call after the initial contact. Chairman Parry asked that each board member provide names of five individuals to send the brochure along with a letter.

**MRCF Fund Report as of July 31, 2015, FY 15-16 Grant Allocation & MRPC Administration Update:** Linda Loughridge, MRPC fiscal officer, presented the year-end financials, which is the income from the affiliate fees that is applied to market outreach and administrative expenses as of June 30, 2015 to the board members. This is for the staff time budgeted by MRPC. The income did not cover operational expenses. The shortfall is less than what was in the past but it still requires a subsidy from MRPC. As of the end of the fiscal year 2014-2015, there was a shortfall of revenues over expenses of \$6,036.49. Linda has asked Wayne to provide \$1,000 from MRCF's fundraising efforts to help reduce cost overruns. The board has authorized the president to make that decision.

Bancroft presented to the board the current fund balance for MRCF as of July 31, 2015. In addition, Bancroft shared with the board the fiscal year 2015-16 grant allocation that is available for grants this year. The board has \$1,476 available to give out in grants for this year's community grant-making fund round. The grant announcement will be sent out to MRCF's list, press releases and electronic application information by October/November. The deadline to apply by electronic submission will be January 29, 2016.

**MRCF Board Vacancies For Washington County:** Chairman Parry asked for the board to make Cindy Merx's appointment official to fill that vacancy. Vogt made a motion to approve Merx as the representative for Washington County, seconded by Odle. Motion passed. Prigge updated the board that Joe Scott has not responded to her messages regarding his position on the board. The board will need to fill that position as soon as possible for Osage County.

**MRCF Community Grant-Making Fund 2015:** Bancroft shared information with the board that this year's grant recipients will need to send a six month report by the end of the month. She will share those updates with the board at the next meeting in October.

**MRCF Goals and Action Plan FY 2015 & Updates:** The board discussed the goals set for this year. The Washington County list of items needs to be updated by removing item number 4 and adding Cindy Merx as the representing board member. MRCF will continue to pursue the affiliate of the year competition with CFO. Staff will send the affiliate of the year criteria to review. The board members agreed for staff to reach out to agency partners what topic they need most help with and sharing information on Give Ozarks. The board suggested having the October board meeting by inviting all of MRCF's agency partners to learn about participating in the Give Ozarks 2016 event. Staff will contact CFO to present information on Give Ozarks at the MRCF board meeting on October 7, 2015.

**Adjournment:** Being no further business, the board meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.