

MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Members Present: Barb Schaller (Maries), Vicki Lange (Osage), Randy Becht (Pulaski), Ray Walden (MRPC At-Large), Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large), and Bonnie Prigge (MRPC Executive Director).

Members Absent: Gary Brown (Dent), Wendy Young (Phelps), Cindy Merx (Washington), and Greg Harris (MRCF At-Large).

Staff Present: Maria Bancroft, Foundation Coordinator

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

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from October 8, 2019. Becht made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Schaller. Motion passed.

MRCF Community Grantmaking Fund 2019 Progress Reports & 2020 Grant Round: Bancroft updated the board on the remaining progress reports to complete the grant round for the year. Bancroft discussed next year's grant round details. The application round will begin on October 31, 2019 with CFO's new online application platform Foundant. Applications will be accepted through January 31, 2020 at 5 p.m. CST.

Sustaining Membership Drive 2019-20: Bancroft requested guidance for this fiscal year's membership drive. In the past, each board member would present letters to local non-profits, schools and churches in their county. After the group's discussion, the board requested Bancroft to prepare a sample letter specific to each board member to distribute to local organizations. In addition, Bancroft will provide a list of past campaign letters sent to determine a new contact list for this year. Based on the past campaign list, each board will be responsible to provide at least 5 up to 10 organizations in their community to send letters.

Rural Ozarks Health Initiative Grant Progress Report: Bancroft updated the board on the ROHI grants awarded. The report deadline for grantees is June 30, 2019. To date, staff has received one final report.

MRCF Fund Balance Report: Bancroft presented the current fund balance report as of November 30, 2019. The total fund balance is \$2,945,037.79 with a total of 51 funds. There are no new funds to report.

MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates: Chairman Lange asked each board member to provide a community update.

Maries County: Vogt asked about Leon Dockery as a potential donor for Maries R2 Schools Foundation who was a former teacher in Bland. Prigge informed the group that she has heard from Bruce Sassmann who planned to reach out to Mr. Dockery. Vogt provided information for Maries R2 Schools annual fundraiser scheduled this year. The event will be on March 7, 2020 at the Belle-Bland Community Center and include a fish fry with a white elephant auction.

Prigge shared with the group a new fund to benefit the Maries R2 Schools Foundation and Belle High School students. Ms. Carolyn Holt established a \$10,000 scholarship fund that will award \$1,000 each year to a Belle high school senior. Jan Sassman, Maries R2 Schools Foundation president has been meeting with Belle high school students to prepare them for when they apply for scholarships. MR2SF has \$75,000 available in scholarships for next year to award in spring 2020. In addition, Ted Day with TKD Foundation made a commitment for two new scholarships to benefit Belle high school seniors.

Dent County: Walden shared that the Dent County Community Foundation began its Giving Circle grant program. The City of Salem applied for a grant from workforce development to fund a new training facility for high school students to learn and provide training for a variety of skills-based jobs for construction, technical trades, mechanical, and cyber security.

There were no other updates to report from the other six counties.

CFO Annual Affiliate Conference Recap: Bancroft shared information from CFO's recent affiliate appreciation conference held on November 8th in Springfield. Bancroft mentioned that the event was well done and had very good key note speakers. There were several local foundations represented at the conference.

Closing Remarks & Adjournment: Bancroft asked to cancel the January meeting and reconvene in February. The members present agreed to cancel the January meeting since there were no pending business items to address next month. Being no further business, Chairman Lange adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

Approved by the board on _____, 2020

Vicki Lange, Chair

Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer