

# MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

**Members Present:** Gary Brown (Dent), Vicki Lange (Osage), Greg Harris (MRCF At-Large), Ray Walden (MRPC At-Large), Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large), and Bonnie Prigge (MRPC Executive Director).

**Members Absent:** Barb Schaller (Maries), Wendy Young (Phelps), Randy Becht (Pulaski), and Cindy Merx (Washington).

**Staff Present:** N/A

**Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance:** At approximately 9:40 a.m., Chairman Vicki Lange called the meeting to order and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** The board reviewed the minutes from December 10, 2019. Vogt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Brown. Motion passed.

**MRCF Community Grant Making Fund:** The board reviewed and discussed the information provided from 16 applications submitted for this year's community grant-making fund. There is \$1,500 available in grant funds to awards 6 individual projects. The board received applications representing each county in the region. After discussion, the following applicants were selected to receive a \$250 grant this year:

1. Crawford R-1 Schools – Caring Closet Project
2. St. James Parks and Recreation – Little Tigers Sports & Games Program
3. Richwoods R-VII Schools – Project Safety First
4. Gasconade County Health Department – Car Seats for Kids
5. Phelps County Historical Society – Lighting and Security of the Blacksmith Shop  
Addition of the Dillon Log House
6. Osage County R-1 School – The Pirate Care Closet

Harris made a motion to approve the six selected grant recipients for this year, seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

**MRCF Fund Balance Report:** The board received and reviewed the current fund balance report as of December 31, 2019.

**Year-End total number of funds:** 51

**Year-End portfolio balance:** \$2,980,968.43

Total number of new funds in 2019: 0

**MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates:** The following board members shared current community updates and goals progress.

Harris initiated discussion on how MRCF can grow from its current position. The community grant-making fund should establish goals before the next round in October on how to increase the amount for future years. For example, the board could create a five-year plan for the fund to generate growth to award \$500 per recipient. The current grant amount is not meaningful enough. The board's focus should be on how to grow MRCF's portfolio overall.

Walden shared updates on projects in Dent County. The Healthy Dent County Fitness Center is planning for a new gym to the current facility with a NAP tax credit to raise \$500,000 toward the construction. The city also received a \$500,000 CDBG grant in conjunction with the school's Youth Opportunity tax credits to build the building on the campus of Salem High School. The building will be used for construction trades and cyber security training. A \$20K Coover Foundation grant was received to purchase a projector for the city auditorium that will be converted into a movie theatre. There is a discussion to possibly have a non-profit or student- body operate the facility. The city applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund to construct soccer fields at the former fairgrounds. The grant is pending.

**Closing Remarks & Adjournment:** Being no further business, at approximately 11:15 a.m. the meeting was adjourned.

*\*Invite a Friend Luncheon*, please RSVP by no later than Monday, March 9th, 2020 at 5 p.m. Lunch price per board member is \$12 and for each board member guest. Cash or check payment (made to *MRPC*) can be made on the day of the meeting. Grant recipients will not pay for their meal. Luncheon is on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 12 noon in MRPC's large conference room. Contact Maria at 573-265-2993, ext. 114 if you have any questions.

**Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020**

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**Vicki Lange, Chair**

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**Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer**