

**MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

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

**Members Absent:** Cindy Merx (Washington) and Wendy Young (Phelps)

**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 9:36 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** The board reviewed the minutes from December 8, 2020. Lange mentioned one correction to be made on the spelling for Feuersville (Koch-Lange Scholarship). Becht made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction noted, seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

**MRCF Community Grant Making Fund:** The board reviewed and discussed the six applications received for this year's community grant-making fund. In the past, there have been donations made to have enough to award \$250 per grantee. This year, there was \$1,405 available in distribution from MRPC grant-making fund. The following individuals volunteered to share the additional \$95 needed to award the full grant amount for each applicant: Steve Vogt, Jared Niederer, Vicki Lange, Gary Brown, Ray Walden, and Greg Harris. Bancroft will contact them on how to submit their donation to the fund.

After the board's discussion on the applications, Ray Walden made a motion to fund all six applications this year, seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

Recommendations for 2022 include the following:

- Change the online application that requires the applicant to provide an actual budget
- The board discussed possibly changing the maximum grant amount to make the fund more attractive to other organizations and more meaningful. Bancroft met with Judy Cantoni on ideas to change the amount. CFO recommended to change the maximum amount to \$500. After discussion, Prigge made a motion to increase the maximum amount that can be awarded to a recipient to \$500, seconded by Harris. Motion passed.

**MRCF Fund Balance Report:** Bancroft presented the current fund balance report as of December 31, 2020

**1. Year-End total number of funds: 52**

**2. New Funds Established: 2**

**a. Woessner Foundation - \$25,000**

**b. Dalton Newton Memorial Scholarship Fund - \$25,000**

**Year-End portfolio balance: \$3,356,671.56**

**MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates:** The group shared the following community updates and goals progress:

1. Newburg Community Endowment Fund: Bancroft visited with CFO's Judy Cantoni for details on the status of the idle fund and what must be accomplished before the end of the fiscal year. The current fund distribution amount is over \$8,000 that has accumulated over 15 years. The fund must give a grant by the end of the fiscal year. Even though the fund was established by many donors, it is MRCF's decision how the fund will be awarded with future grants. There are only but a few eligible and possibly organizations that could benefit from this grant such as the local church's food distribution program, the school district, or a non-profit within the school. Bancroft and Cantoni will schedule a meeting with the fund's point of contact to clarify roles and the upcoming deadline to show grant activity from the fund.

2. MRCF was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Coover Fund (COVID 19- Relief and Recovery Fund) to address regional issues because of COVID-19. The board will need to create a process and criteria to begin the grant cycle. The deadline to distribute grants is June 15, 2021.
3. Maries R2 Schools Foundation annual fundraiser has been rescheduled for the fall.

**Closing Remarks & Adjournment:** Being no further business to conduct, Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:20 a.m., seconded by Brown. Motion passed.

- i. **Invite-a-Friend Luncheon** – March 9, 2021 @ 12 noon – The board discussed the idea to postpone the luncheon and revisit the event in the fall. This event has been used to recognize the new grant awards for the community grant-making fund. Niederer made a motion to postpone the luncheon in the fall and request grantees to share project updates with the board, seconded by Becht. Motion passed.
- ii. **Scholarships Committee Meeting** – April 13, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.

Approved by the board on \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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**Vicki Lange, Chair**

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**Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer**