

MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 11, 2023

Members Present: Jared Niederer (Gasconade), Tony Hayden (Zoom-Osage), Randy Becht (Pulaski), Richard Cavender (MRCF At-Large), and Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large).

Members Absent: John Craig (Crawford), Deborah Henderson (Maries), Amy Pendleton (Phelps), and Bonnie Prigge (MRPC Executive Director).

Staff Present: Maria Bancroft, Foundation Coordinator

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Niederer called the meeting to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the meeting minutes from March 14, 2023. Becht made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Hayden. Motion passed.

MRCF 2023 Scholarships - Review and Selections:

Cavender Scholarship for Public Service: The board reviewed **6** applications submitted to select one recipient for \$1,200. After discussion, a motion was made by Cavender, seconded by Hayden to select Molly Wnuk as the recipient and Hali Naber as alternate. Motion passed.

Cole-Mahan Scholarship: The board reviewed **2** applications submitted to select one recipient for \$500. After discussion, Hayden made a motion, seconded by Vogt, to select Kesare Garcia as the recipient and no alternate. Motion passed.

Claude and Irene Morgan Scholarship: The fund did not award this year.

Koch-Lange Scholarship: The board reviewed **4** applications submitted to select one recipient for \$700. After discussion, Hayden made a motion, seconded by Vogt, to select Mackenzie Garner as the recipient and no alternate. Motion passed.

MRCF Fund Balance Report: Bancroft presented the current fund balance report as of April 5, 2023.

Current total number of funds: 53

Current total portfolio balance: \$4,128,438

Total number of new funds in FY 22-23:

1. Phelps County Extension – University of Missouri
2. RDBA Historic Fountain Plaza

MRCF Community Grant-making Fund Criteria Discussion: Chairman Niederer asked the board to discuss new criteria for the community grant-making fund. The following comments were made by the board for consideration to identify a narrower scope for next year's application process.

- What is the immediate impact of the project?
- What is the goal that the board wants to focus on?

- What are the needs of the region? Does the applicant address any of the region's needs?
- What criteria was used during last year's selection process? What did the board tell the applicant to apply for?
- Once criteria are established, cut, and paste the criteria to the online grant application.
- Have the board review the applications from last year to identify the need for next year.
- Bundle each application into a specific group and review them as a set. For example, applications grouped together for beautification, literacy, hunger, etc.

MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates: Chairman Niederer asked the board for community and goal updates. The following updates were shared with the group.

- Belle Community Betterment Association should be completed with the lights and landscaping by late summer. BCBA is hosting the Belle Swap Meet in June and expects about 100 vendors.
- The City of Waynesville's daffodil plants are starting to come up.
- Phelps County Community Foundation is getting started and moving forward with an endowment fund for \$30,000 through CFO/MRCF and a capacity fund for immediate expenditures such as the community report in process.
- Gasconade Fair Foundation is raising funds to replace the building on the fairgrounds. The building will be 80 X 150 feet and will be used for youth ag groups and as an educational community center. The goal is to raise \$700,000 to complete the new building and begins at the end of April 2023.

Comments for the Good of the Order: Next board meeting - July 11, 2023 @ 2 p.m.

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

Approved by the board on July 11, 2023.

Jared Niederer, Board Chair

Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer