

MERAMEC REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Members Present: Jared Niederer (Gasconade), Ashley Harris (Maries), Tony Hayden (Osage) by Zoom, T.R. Dudley (Washington), Steve Vogt (MRPC At-Large), and Prigge Prigge (MRPC Executive Director).

Members Absent: Richard Cavender (MRCF At-Large), Gary Larson (MRPC At-Large)

Staff Present: Nichole Zielke

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Niederer called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the meeting minutes from November 25, 2024. Harris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Hayden. Motion passed.

MRCF Community Grant Making Fund: There were 6 applications that board members reviewed and scored in advance of the meeting. Prigge explained that two of the board members' evaluations were removed from the results due to conflicts (they serve on the board of one of the applicants), and she presented the overall scoring results (as a percentage) with these two removed. Board members agreed that one submission was ineligible due to geographic location (i.e. Greene County is outside of the Meramec Region), so discussion was focused on the remaining five applications. Due to the low number of applications, Hayden asked if the board was still required to pick one award in the two chosen categories: Community and At-Risk Kids. Prigge reported that she had posed the same question to CFO and they indicated that the board should follow the advertised parameters.

Hayden made a motion to award two projects, the Saving KidSight "*KidSight School-Aged Screenings for Low-Income Students*" for a \$750 grant (At-Risk Kids); and Armed Services YMCA of Missouri "*ASYMCA Early Learning Classes-Lending Library System*" for a \$750 grant (Community); seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

Scholarship Update: Prigge explained the process, encouraging board members to invite local seniors to apply for scholarships. She reminded members that, when students complete the application process, the CFO system will notify them of other scholarships (not just through MRCF) for which they may be eligible.

Affiliate Action Grants from CFO: Prigge notified board members of a CFO opportunity called the Affiliate Action Grants. This program will provide \$4,000 to five separate CFO affiliates, through a competitive application process (February 21 deadline). The board agreed that it would be a worthwhile grant to pursue, and discussed the type of project that they would like to submit. Hayden made a motion to apply for \$4,000 of funding and, if awarded, to give an additional \$1,000 to the two MRCF Community Grant Making Fund recipients (Armed Services

YMCA of Missouri and Saving KidSight) and retain \$2,000 for distribution in the next application round of the Community Grant Making Fund; seconded by Harris. Motion passed.

Planning for “Invite a Friend to Lunch”: Prigge encouraged members to invite another person to a lunch meeting in March, especially anyone that they believe would be interested in serving on the board and filling outstanding vacancies. Board members will need to RSVP a headcount, at least a week before the meeting. The tentative date was March 11, but board members discussed a variety of conflicts and rescheduled it for March 25 (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.).

Board Vacancies: The board discussed the open vacancies in Crawford, Dent, Phelps, and Pulaski counties, offering suggestions for potential members to fill each vacancy.

MRCF Goals and Action Plan Updates: Each member gave updates about a variety of projects taking place in their individual cities and counties, including upcoming events and fundraisers.

MRCF Fund Balance Report: Zielke presented the current fund balance report as of January 29, 2025. MRCF’s portfolio contains 49 funds, totaling \$4,442,848.08. There are \$127,329.02 spendable dollars for grant making and scholarships. While there is a balance in the Newburg Community Grant-Making Endowment Fund that can be awarded, because of other local activities, Prigge suggested that the board wait and reassess the balance in May. Dudley inquired about the potential of moving the Great Mines Foundation dollars to a fund under the MRCF umbrella. Prigge agreed to provide information about the options and help determine if it would be a benefit to the organization. Harris announced that, in addition to the existing scholarship fund created in memory of her mother, her family is in the process of creating a new scholarship fund in honor of her uncle, who recently passed away.

Closing Remarks & Adjournment:

Invite a Friend Luncheon – March 25, 2025, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Scholarships Committee Meeting – April 23, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Being no further business, Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11 a.m., seconded by Vogt. Motion passed.

Approved by the board on _____, 2025.

Jared Niederer, Chairman

Attested by Secretary or other MRCF Officer