1. Welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:04a.m. by Tiffany.

a. Introductions + Welcoming New Board Members

Group introduced themselves to new board members.

b. Call to Order

c. Attendance

Attendance

Members

Remote: Stephanie Cooper, Mallory Rusch, Tiffany Patton, Raquel Cooper, Jason Stoff, Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Randall Wollenberg, Rachel Tripp, Pierre Yancy, Kimberly Henderson, Karen Englert, Deanna Finch, Tony Baker

Absent: Jennifer Shotwell, Amy Blansit, Deitra Colquitt

Guests

Remote: Amber Foster-Hobart, Tina Mahtani

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A quorum was not established at the strategic meeting; a copy of the meeting notes from the strategic retreat was included in the agenda.

2. Board Committee Breakouts

- Set meeting calendar for all of FY26
- Review committee charters
- Committee planning for year

Board members were placed into breakout committees to establish meetings, charters and any planning that needs to occur.

3. Board Committee Reports

a. Resource Development

Peyton Davis has been hired as the new development manager. The hiring process for the communications manager is almost complete, should be starting in the next month. Board members will begin to hear from Peyton regarding donations, sponsorships, etc. Additionally, board members will be hearing from staff regarding the anti-poverty summit in November. If board members have signed up to help with sponsor outreach, a poll will be sent to schedule a planning meeting.

Poll will be sent to board members to schedule a sponsor outreach meeting
Assigned to: Mallory Rusch

Due: 08/15/2025

b. Governance Committee

Annual Bylaw Review

Vote on revised committee charters

Vote on inactive members

The governance committee reviewed all committee charters and have the following recommendations: Resource Development charter was reviewed and looks good, ready to move forward with approval. Some discussion around attendance and engagement of committee meetings. For the finance committee charter, a concern that was brought up was the number of board members that are required, may be unable to have three members at all times. Otherwise, there were no other recommendations to the finance charter. The governance committee charter was reviewed and suggested that the president and vice-president of the board should be included in the committee structure.

Bylaw review recommendations-review of bylaws and conflict of interest forms should happen on an annual basis. For questions regarding conflict of interests, please reach out to Mallory or Karen. No further recommendations to the bylaws charter.

4. Executive Director Report

The staff have now turned their attention to federal policy since the state legislative session has come to a close. A new podcast was released this week in response to the LIHEAP cuts. A review of disaster-SNAP and the decline by the state of Missouri was discussed. This would have assisted those that were impacted by the St. Louis tornadoes earlier this summer. Working on the 125th anniversary event, will give more information soon. Mallory discussed the STUN program and an update needed to our fiscal sponsor agreement. A recommendation was made by the attorney to include a liability insurance clause within the fiscal agreement. This will allow for STUN to rent a space for storage. A motion was made by Jason and seconded by Randall. No further discussion, motion was passed. Mallory discussed the credit card offerings by Central Bank and her request of the board to change credit card companies to US Bank. US Bank does require a personal guarantor, and Mallory is asking if the board has any concerns or questions. She is also discussing changing banks to a local St. Louis credit union (St. Louis Community Credit Union). Staff is not ready to move at this time but will addressing over the next several months. A quarterly donation newsletter will be mailed out on a quarterly basis. Will be looking at changing the hiring policies to allow for staff to live outside the state of Missouri. Will be working with the attorney to see what changes would need to be made. A question was raised about board training being included in some board meetings and extending the time frame to three hours to include the board training. The September meeting will be extended to 9am-12pm to include training next month. Finally, this will be EM's final year with the current audit firm. They will finalize this year's audit, will bid out for next year's services.

5. Closing

a. Action Items

- **A biweekly notice will be sent out by Mallory to update the board on Empower Missouri activities.**
  Assigned to: Mallory Rusch
  Due: 08/15/2025

b. Next Meeting Dates

- Saturday, September 20th

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:11pm.