1. Welcome

a. Welcome and Introductions

- Introductions to/of new board members
- Board member spotlight presentation

b. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:38am

c. Attendance

Attendance

Members

Present: Heather Bradley-Geary, Stephanie Cooper, Mallory Rusch, Jennifer Shotwell, Tiffany Patton, Raquel Cooper, Amy Blansit, Jason Stoff, Randall Wollenberg, Deitra Colquitt, Rachel Tripp, Kimberly Henderson, Karen Englert, Deanna Finch, Gerardo Martinez

Absent: Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Pierre Yancy

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Will need to change Dietra from absent to present, motion made by Jennifer, second by Raquel. Heather abstained from vote, no further discussion, motion carries.

2. Board Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee

- Changes to Executive Committee-the consultant asked the chair to get the executive committee started as soon as possible. Tiffany wants to know who should be on the committee so it can begin functioning. A Google form was presented to membership to vote on membership of the executive committee.
- Update on board consultancy process-the consultant has had a personal delay and will be submitting a report for the board based on the interviews that have occurred in the near future. Interviews for board members and officers, data gathering and other documents have been turned over to the consultant.
- Kimberly Henderson has agreed to take the secretary position. A motion was made by Karen for Kimberly to fill the secretary position, Raquel seconded the motion, no further discussion, motion carries.
- Raquel will be stepping down from the Vice-President position due to personal reasons. A discussion is occurring to determine the next steps for this position.

b. Finance Committee

- Approve August, September, and October Financial Statements-the finance committee reviewed the financial statements and are asking for a motion to accept the statements as presented. A motion was made by Randall and seconded by Rachel, no further discussion, motion carries.

- Approve 990-the finance committee has approved the 990 and is asking the board to approve the submission of the 990. Randall made a motion, Raquel seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.

c. Resource Development

- Giving Tuesday results-Jason reported that the Giving Tuesday campaign raised close to $4000, below the goal of $5000. The staff of Empower will be looking at different approaches to GT for the upcoming year.
- Mid-Year fundraising update-individual giving is lagging slightly, but grant revenue is up. (Please see fundraising report for detailed giving amounts)
- Get involved in our 125th Anniversary celebration!-the committee is looking at events within the committee that would directly relate to the 125th anniversary.

3. Executive Director Report

Please see report for details of ED engagement. Back to Session bootcamp kicked off the beginning of the year, with 75 participants. A focus that is being worked on is connecting with Missouri United Ways to advocacy skills training. Mallory has communicated with about 15 ED's for meetings and discussions about advocacy work at the capitol this year. A Clean Slate town hall is occurring in St. Louis at the end of January. In February, Week of Action/Day of Action will be occurring. If any of the board members can participate, please feel free to attend what trainings or events that you are able. There was discussion around the income tax cuts that are proposed by Gov. Kehoe. Another focus is on the 125th anniversary celebration, including the Jeffersonian dinners, garnering interest from donors and others that may be interested in hosting these events. Policy priorities for 2026 were also reviewed (see policy memo) for more details surrounding affordable housing, criminal justice, food security and other anti-poverty priorities. The board held their staff retreat last month in Springfield, health insurance renewal is coming up, the 990's were completed, worked on the graduate fellowship program. This was presented in November; however, board members ask for additional details including what schools would be partnered with as well as a list of potential funders. A motion was made by Jason, Stephanie seconded, no further discussion, motion carries.

4. Board Training: Board Governance 101

The details of the board governance presentation are included in the packet. Mallory will send out slide deck to members.

- [x] Board Governance 101 slide deck will be sent out to members.
Assigned to: Karen Englert
Due: 03/13/2026

5. Closing

a. Action Items

b. Next Meeting Dates

- Take the poll to vote on March/April and May/June meeting dates
- Potential retreat dates: March 7th, March 28th, April 11th, April 18th or April 25th
- Potential dates for final board meeting of the fiscal year: May 30th or June 6th

6. Adjournment

Motion made by Karen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Raquel. No further discussion, motion carries. Meeting ended at 11:40a.m.