1. Welcome

a. Welcome and Introductions

b. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:03am.

c. Attendance

Attendance

Members

Present: Mallory Rusch, Tiffany Patton, Raquel Cooper, Jason Stoff, Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Randall Wollenberg, Deitra Colquitt, Kimberly Henderson, Deanna Finch, Tony Baker

Absent: Stephanie Cooper, Jennifer Shotwell, Amy Blansit, Rachel Tripp, Pierre Yancy, Karen Englert

Guests

d. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were not published, will move to November meeting.

2. Special Session Debrief + Policy Team FY26 Plans

Presentation by Lucas Caldwell-McMillan

Presentation from Lucas Caldwell-McMillan was given to the board. For specific details, please see the PowerPoint presentation. Items reviewed were food security (SNAP, Rural Food Access Partnership, HR1 implementation), community justice (DOC oversight, youth justice, clean slate and the justice advocacy cohort), affordable housing (MHTF, right to counsel for tenants, housing justice fellowship, federal housing cuts).

3. Board Committee Reports

a. Governance Committee

- Internal Policy Review

Mallory reviewed conflict of interest policy, document retention policy, gift acceptance policy, non-discrimination policy, whistleblower policy, separation of interest policy, public reporting and transparency policy. There are no further questions about the policies as presented.

b. Finance Committee

- Approve May & June 2025 Financial Statements
- Report on small internal loan from endowment

Randy provided an overview of the finance committee meeting. These are the last two statements of the fiscal year. The statements were reflective of the current status of the finances for Empower Missouri. The committee made a recommendation to accept the financials as presented. Tiffany asked that Randy make a report on the loan from the endowment and board giving. He explained that the organization needed to take a loan against the endowment to meet payroll and associated expenses until the new grants began. Mallory requested that the executive committee allow her to take a loan until new grant funds were received. There is a plan for next year to create a cushion so a loan won't need to be taken. Randy made a motion to accept the financials as presented, Kimberly made a second, no further discussion, motion carries.

c. Resource Development

Committee met and discussed the 125th planning committee and to see if there were any volunteers that wanted to participate. Also were able to meet Peyton, who is Empower's resource development manager. Jason also let us know that one board member had already met their financial board commitment.

4. Executive Director Report

Mallory discussed the prep for the anti-poverty advocates' summit and that registration is ongoing. The speaker list for the summit is listed on the website if anyone is interested. A line of credit has been opened at US Bank for new company credit cards. Once that process is complete, the accounts with Central Bank will be closed. A discussion was had regarding the change to St. Louis Community Credit Union. While there is interest in moving to them, it has been brought to Mallory's attention that QuickBooks will not merge with the financials of SLCCC. Discussed the hire of the new communications director, Natalie Wilkins. An update on the hire of the associate director of agreement and the affordable housing policy director is moving forward. Mallory discussed the update with the auditor; a draft should be available in the next month. Also in the process of locating a new auditor for the organization. For fundraising, Mallory confirmed the PEW grant and that she is in negotiations with Clean Slate and Arnold Ventures. There is also prep work occurring to turn over these systems to the new ADD.

5. Advocacy Training

Sarah provided an overview of the advocacy training that is given to Empower Missouri partners for the board. The two main areas that she is discussing is building relationships with lawmakers and writing and delivering an effective testimony. For more detailed information, please see the PowerPoint presentation. If there are any questions for Sarah, please reach out to Mallory.

6. Closing

a. Action Items

Place the advocacy presentation in Boardable for members to access.

b. Next Meeting Dates

- Saturday, November 8th
- Saturday, January 10th

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm