1. Welcome

Attendance

Members

Present: Marqueia Watson, Stephanie Cooper, Mallory Rusch, Anatolij Gelimson, Jennifer Shotwell, Tiffany Patton, Raquel Cooper, Amy Blansit, David Webber, Jason Stoff, Shonte Byrd, Katheryne Staeger-Wilson

Absent: Izzy Litwack, Pamela Neal

a. Welcome

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

b. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Anatolij moved to accept the meeting minutes, Raquel seconded. No further discussion, motion carries.

2. Board Committee Reports

a. Resource Development

Sara presented on Give StL Day happening on May 9, 2024. Events are planned, early giving starts on April 24 and pizza Monday happens on May 6. A few board members have not given their board donation yet so there are some options as to opportunities for those board members can give, contact Sara or Mallory. Two board members are hosting peer to peer fundraiser and Raquel and Tiffany volunteered to host a peer-to-peer fundraiser. Sara will send out messaging templates, board members are asked to send out in their networks.

i. 2024 Awards Brunch Preview & Planning Timeline

Current state of event-target date is June 22 or 29th. If anyone has any venues in the St Louis region that could be shared, please contact Sara. Expecting about 150 people in attendance. Mallory will provide Sara a contact for CRC. Sara needs board members to nominate awardees, invite people, attend, promote, raffle items collection and post event stewardship. Jennifer asked for clarification of items for the raffle and will provide her with some items. Anatolij will donate raffle items and Tiffany is interested in helping where necessary. Some ideas for potential brunch sponsors include: Six Flags, banks, local insurance agents, food manufacturing companies, Atomicdust, Buc-cee's, International Food Company, Salvation Army, IFPC, etc. Please send any additional items or thoughts to Sara. Please see slide deck for more information.

*__Action Items: Board members that haven't made annual donations can get ahold of Sara to learn about ways to financially support the events. Board members who want to volunteer to assist with sponsorships, raffles, etc. should contact Sara.__

b. Governance Committee

i. Vote on Committee Charters

Jennifer made the motion to accept the finance charter as is, Tiffany seconded. No further questions, motion carries.

Jason moved to accept the resource development charter, second by Anatolij. No further questions, motion carries.

Anatolij moved to accept the governance charter, seconded by Amy. No further questions, motion carries.

ii. Review Board Matrix & Discuss Recruitment Needs

- NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Please fill out your column in the board member matrix below. Regarding income, you can use the same ranges from our board application-- it just helps us ensure socioeconomic diversity on the board. Here are the ranges:
  - $0 - $17,800
  - $17,801- $34,100
  - $34,101- $55,200
  - $55,201- $93,100
  - More than $93,101
- For folks who are ending their first two-year term on the board (Tiffany, Jennifer, Stephanie, Raquel, Izzy), please let us know by March 31st if you are not planning to renew for a second term.
- Discussion about prioritizing folks with an interest in future leadership (officers & committee chairs)
- Definite need to recruit 1-2 individuals with a solid finance background
- Also should likely prioritize new members with an interest in serving on the Resource Development Committee

*Each board member needs to review the board matrix and complete the information or update if necessary. See link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kXmx7KxpfNk-dULRu_IoK_m3FF8Jt0nYEjryeGfXoSs/edit#gid=1123669400

iii. Board Committee Chairs Needed + Responsibilities

All three board committee do not have chairs at this time. Mallory would like to have the board entertain the idea of adding leadership positions to the board interest portion of the board documents. Board is agreeable to this idea.
*Action Item-If board members are interested in chairing a board committee, please contact Mallory or Marqueia ASAP.

c. Finance Committee

- Vote on September, October & November financial statements

- Mid-Year Financial Update from Mallory

Anatolij asked if there was $20.000 in the bank account during the fall? Mallory discussed that the funding came in over December and the bank accounts are now higher due to the increased revenue. Current bank balance is over $150K. Stephanie moved to accept the financial statements as presented, Jason seconded. No further questions, motion carries.

Mallory reviewed the mid-year budget and presented to board. A link to the budget will be sent out to all board members. Contributions are down, fee for services are down, increases in grants and United Way funding. Should be meeting the goal for financials this year with a 3% loss in revenue. Staffing is down, so some salary savings, HR savings, fundraising expenses are down, office expenses are down. Looking at 12% savings for expenses.

3. Executive Director Report Questions

The ED report was submitted for prior review. Jason asked if there were any good candidates for the operations manager, Mallory stated that several of them have operational experience. No further questions from board members at this time.

4. Strategic Planning Updates

Please take this survey to share early input to the strategic planning process.

Here are our SP Committee Members:

Board Members

- Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Program Coordinator, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
- Stephanie Cooper, CEO, Douglass Community Services, Inc.
- Marqueia Watson, Executive Director, Greater KC Coalition to End Homelessness
- Amy Blansit, CEO, Drew Lewis Foundation

Staff Members

- Sarah Owsley, Advocacy Director
- Amber Foster, Director of Advancement
- Vee Sanchez, Affordable Housing Policy Manager
- Mallory Rusch, Executive Director

Community Partners

- Beverly Isom, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Operation Food Search
- Bev Livingston, Founder, Mothers of Incarcerated Sons & Daughters
- Mary Schuman, Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

- Emily Fessler, Continuum of Care Coordinator, Community Partnership of the Ozarks

*__Action item: Add David Weber to the board committee members.__

5. Legislative Session Preview

Christine and Trina discussed the work being done around proposed legislation and where the state is in the process. Please share this link with your networks: https://secure.everyaction.com/ct_vIWXatUaWNi6_nX7yBA2. Food security policy priority updates includes: summer EBT, drug felony SNAP ban, double up food bucks program, restaurant meals program, universal school meals, food sales tax, WIC advisory group, land bank enabling legislation, circuit breaker tax reform, eviction moratoria bans, homeslessness criminalization. Also discussed advance clean slate, local control of policing, geriatric parole and limiting use of private probation. Please see slide deck for more information including sponsors, bill numbers, action items, etc.

*__Action Item: Mallory will send out slide deck for board members to review.__

6. Discussion & Vote on STUN Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement

In November 2022, the Board approved Empower Missouri taking steps to become the fiscal sponsor of Springfield Tenants Unite (STUN). Over the last year, we've been working towards that goal. The attached agreement has been fully vetted by counsel with expertise in this area and is ready for signature. Asking the board for a final vote on this before we sign.

Need to learn more about fiscal sponsorships? Read this.

Mallory gave a brief desciption of the agreement, Katherine made the motion to accept the contract, Amy seconded. No further discussion, motion carries.

7. Planning & Prep for March Board Retreat

Strategic planning date will be April 6th in Jefferson City.

*__Action Item-Mallory will send out information closer to time__

Motion was made to adjourn by Jason, Stephanie seconded motion. Meeting was adjouned at 12:33pm.