**1.** Welcome

**a.** Welcome and Introductions

Quick survey-- birthdays!

Please add birthdays to chat for the governance committee.

**b.** Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:07am

**c.** Attendance

## Attendance

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### Members

**Present:** Mallory Rusch, Jennifer Shotwell, Tiffany Patton, Amy Blansit, Jason Stoff, Katheryne Staeger-Wilson, Randall Wollenberg, Rachel Tripp, Kimberly Henderson, Karen Englert, Tony Baker

**Absent:** Stephanie Cooper, Raquel Cooper, Deitra Colquitt, Pierre Yancy, Deanna Finch

**d.** Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Amy to accept the August meeting minutes, Jason seconded. No further discussion, motion carries.
Motion made by Rachel to accept the September meeting minutes, Amy seconded. No further discussion, motion carries.

**2.** Board Committee Reports

**a.** Governance Committee

- Official vote on board committee charters-Randall reviewed the content of the charter for the finance committee and said that it reflected the work of the committee at this time. Motion made by Amy, seconded by Kimberly, no further discussion, motion carries. Randall asked if these charters would be reviewed once per year. The governance committee charter was reviewed, motion made by Katheryne, second by Rachel, no further discussion, motion carries. The resource development charter was presented, motion made by Jason, seconded by Kimberly, no further discussion, motion carries.
- Update on board consultancy process-in the beginning phases of the planning. Due to the need of providing a deposit prior to work, the timeline is being reworked, and a new date will be provided. The consultant will be reaching out to several board members for questions and will be providing an overview for the board.
- Update on KC board recruitment-if board members are aware of any potential board members, please put the names and contacts in the chat or email Mallory. KC recruitment is critical for the board composition and would like to focus on the area.

- Mallory met with two Kansas City residents, Girardo Martinez who works with UMKC. Another candidate that will be applying is Heather Geary who works in the housing space and teaches social work. Tony Baker has left the board and will be joining the Empower Missouri staff as an associate director of development in January. The secretary position will need to be filled since Stephanie has resigned from the board effective March 1. Please reach out to Mallory if you are interested in the position.

**b.** Finance Committee

- Approve July financial statements-Randall was not able to attend the last finance meeting and Mallory reviewed the statements. There are no comments
- Review draft audit-audit was reviewed, there were no questions or concerns from the committee member. A motion was made by Randall, a second was made by Tiffany, no further discussion, motion carries.
- Approve investment policy-Randall reviewed the policy and noted that it was cleaned up and streamlined from previous versions. Mallory provided more context to the investment policy statement and wants the board to affirm the investment policy. A question was asked about what can be taken out of the endowment. Mallory indicated that the core cannot be removed from the endowment and up to 5% can be withdrawn with board approval. Karen suggested not to call out the specific name of the bank so changes don't need to be made if the advisor changes. A motion was made to approve the policy with the removal of the banking partner by Karen, a second was made by Randall, no further discussion, motion carries.

**c.** Resource Development

- Q1 Fundraising/Board Giving Report-Jason indicated that compared to the prior year, we are behind where we were from last year. It appears that individual giving is down, the committee will be looking at this prior to Giving Tuesday. Grants are tracking well compared to prior year. All board members should have received an email from Amber that address individual giving.
- Up Next: Giving Tuesday-there will be a Facebook campaign that can be used as well as a Zeffy webpage for Giving Tuesday. Please reach out to Jason or Peyton for additional support. There is a request for board members to make short video clips that will be collected and shared on social media. The committee is also looking for individuals to build out a birthday campaign for the 125th anniversary. These individuals could be board members or Empower donors. The Giving Tuesday packet is fairly robust, so all members should be able to participate in a variety of ways with good information to guide your participation.

**3.** Executive Director Report

- ED Report - November 2025-Updated board about SNAP benefit changes and their work to advocate for recipients. Currently there is a court-order in place to fund full benefits for the month of November. Also discussed how Empower is supporting food banks at the local level. Also focused on the upcoming Summit, with about 115 registrations to date. Pre-filing will be happening at the first part of December and team will be reviewing bills during the month and identifying scope of support and advocacy. Not much to report on organizational operations, hiring staff and focusing on onboarding. For more details, please see the ED report.

- 125th Anniversary Preview-Highlights include 1. stakeholders experience a sense of pride about their donations to the organization 2. tables at events will be birthday themed to raise attention to the anniversary. 3. stakeholders feel a sense of community 4. highlight staff and board members on a monthly basis.
- Discussion: Graduate Fellowship-will be launching a new program that will be available to a graduate level student that will have him/her assist with the coalitions, learning advocacy, doing entry level work-logistics, etc. Want to announce this program in January and announce during the anniversary celebration. Will provide a lower wage and health benefits. Karen would like to see some additional context about who is targeted for hires, universities that would be contacted, etc. Mallory will gather the information and share with the board prior to a vote. Will consider putting into an electronic vote, along with new board member applicants.

**4.**

**5.** Closing

**a.** Action Items

**b.** Next Meeting Dates

- January 10, 2026 9AM-12PM
- Survey to be sent in January to schedule April + June meetings

**6.** Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05am