UMKC RETIREES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes and Addendum
March 12, 2014, 9:00-11:00, Brookside Room
(Rescheduled from February 5, 2014)

Members Present:  Mary Anne Morgenegg, Pat Hovis-French, Ted Sheldon, Denny Schemmel, Merton Shatzkin, Charles Volk, Brenda Fasken, Dee Evans, Kim Rudolph, Rita Messina

Members Absent:  John Ditto, Reaner Shannon, Lora Lacey-Haun, Robert Piepho, Linda Edwards, Marvin Querry

President Morgenegg called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Guests:  Symie Menitove and Bill Wright, representatives from SPARK (Senior Peers Actively Renewing Knowledge) explained the program.  SPARK offers informative classes, book club discussions, and other opportunities to life-long learners aged 55 and older.  Six-week sessions are held in spring and fall, with four-week sessions during summer.  SPARK is located at 51st and Oak Street in the UMKC Annex Building.  More information, as well as a schedule of classes, may be found at http://spark.umkc.edu.

Committee Reports

Treasurer’s Report – Ted Sheldon, Treasurer
Copies of the Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget were distributed to board members. Ted Sheldon reported that funds in the Retiree’s Investment Account had a return of 15.3% during 2013. The Operating Account, however, has not fared as well. Revenue provided by membership dues declined by over $3,000.00 in 2013, as compared to the previous year. Sheldon explained that the proposed 2014 budget shows reduced revenue figures from membership dues based on the 2013 fiscal year.  Concern was again voiced about declining membership and how the organization views itself: as an independent membership-based group or as a division of the Development Office.  Sheldon stated that with the current financial situation, he estimates the organization can survive for another year or possibly two years, if expenditures are limited.  Sheldon also reviewed the UMKCRA Scholarship Fund.  A motion was made to accept the Treasurer’s Report (Sheldon/Schemmel) and was approved by all present.

Finance Committee – Ted Sheldon, Chair
Sheldon announced that the Finance Committee would meet soon to discuss scholarship funds, membership, and fiscal year issues and to develop recommendations, if needed.

Minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting were reviewed and accepted.  (Sheldon/Fasken)

Benefits Committee – Robert Piepho, Chair
No written report.
Communications Committee – Dale Neuman, Chair
No written report. Kim Rudolph reported that the newsletter had been completed and mailed to members; extra copies were made available at the meeting. The communications committee continues to consider the UMKCRA website and how best to use it.

Membership Committee – Linda Edwards, Chair
No written report. It was reported that Linda Edwards has agreed to accept the chairmanship of the membership committee following Leo Sweeney’s resignation. President Morgenegg asked if the ad hoc membership task force, set up at the August 2013 meeting, had met. Morgenegg will contact Ron MacQuarrie, chairman of the committee, about a report.

Program Committee – John Ditto, Chair
No written report. Brenda Fasken stated that John Ditto is working on entertainment for the Spring Luncheon, which will also feature UMKCRA Recognition Awards.

Nomination Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
No written report.

Recognition Committee – Denny Schemmel, Chair
No written report. Denny Schemmel reviewed information about nominees receiving the UMKCRA Recognition Awards at the upcoming April meeting. The nomination of Dr. G. Ross Stephens had been approved by the Board at the November 2013 meeting. However, because of weather-related delays, the nomination of a retired staff member for recognition could not be voted on at a regular meeting of the Board. To expedite the matter, President Morgenegg distributed supporting documentation to board members via email and the nomination of Leo Sweeney was approved. This action was ratified at the current meeting by a post factum vote to confirm Sweeney’s nomination (Schemmel/Sheldon) and approved by all present. Honorees are presented with commemorative plaques at the April luncheon; additional plaques are to be placed in the Administrative Center. Kim is working with Facilities Management regarding where and when plaques will be installed.

Volunteer Committee – Reaner Shannon, Chair
No written report. President Morgenegg reported that the committee is seeking committee members. It was reported that one volunteer opportunity (Home for the Holidays) is currently available to UMKCRA members.

Old Business

Emeritus College – Mary Anne Morgenegg
President Morgenegg reported that Jakob Waterborg will be responsible for the organization’s electronic footprint and is also assembling a website. The College is designing a brochure. Construction work on the Emeritus College was recently rebid and construction is to begin in March, with an official start date of June or July 2014. The space is scheduled to be open by the beginning of the 2014 fall semester.
A well-attended reception for the Emeritus College was held at Diastole on February 18, 2014. The strategic plan for the College has been reviewed and the by-laws are being worked on.

Other Business

Legislative Day – Mary Anne Morgenegg
About twenty people from UMKC traveled to Jefferson City for the UM System Legislative Day on February 17, 2014. The UMKC group consisted of alumni, students, retirees, and faculty. President Wolfe addressed the assembly and the UMKC group set out to meet state representatives. During the day, a legislative panel spoke to the assembly about their commitment to the State and to higher education. UM System Chancellors also spoke.

Leadership Meeting – Mary Anne Morgenegg
A Leadership Meeting will be held in Columbia on April 23, 2014. UM System Retiree Associations will meet with UM System President Wolfe. UMKCRA President Morgenegg and past-President Hovis-French plan to attend; an invitation was extended to the Board to attend. Lora Lacey-Haun and Bob Piepho will be contacted about attending.

New Member Orientation – Mary Anne Morgenegg
The date of the new member orientation will be announced. Current board members are welcome to attend and help with orientation of new officers.

Membership Issues – Mary Anne Morgenegg
President Morgenegg opened the floor to ideas and suggestions toward increasing general membership and committee membership. Since Leo Sweeney stepped down from his position on the Board, Marvin Querry was approached about fulfilling Sweeney’s last year. Morgenegg is awaiting his acceptance. Board members offered their reasons for becoming involved with UMKCRA: concern about retiree benefits; involvement in social events; maintaining personal/professional contacts; retaining a connection with the University. It was mentioned that a calling campaign was successful in the past. It was proposed that a survey be sent to retirees, asking what they would like to see in a retirees group. It was also offered that UMKCRA could become more like the Alumni Association, where all retirees are automatically part of the group and no dues are required. It was further suggested that UMKCRA might attract more retirees by offering programs of special interest to their particular group, such as the issues of aging.

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 7, 2014, from 9:00-11:00 in the Hyde Park Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. (Messina/Sheldon).

Respectively Submitted,

Rita Messina, UMKCRA Secretary
ADDENDUM

Leadership Meeting – Date Change
The Leadership Meeting was rescheduled to April 29, 2014, due to President Wolfe’s schedule.

Next Board Meeting – Time and Location Change
The next meeting of the UMKCRA Board will be held on Wednesday, May 7th, in the Brookside Room, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.