



Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 14, 2019
Flowood Library Building, Flowood, MS

Welcome and Call to Order

The MRPEA Board Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Ann Thames.

Members Present

Judy Clark	Robert McNeil
Virgil F. Belue	Michael Myrick
Margo Bowers	Dale T. Sullivan
Howell Garner	Ann Thames
Lucian Hill	Sam Valentine
Mike Larsen	Evelyn Webb
Mike Lightsey	Wynona Winfield

Members Not Present

Ronald Bell	Thomas Loftin
Richard Black	Randy McCoy
Tony Byrne	Preston Ratliff
Alton Cobb	J. Hoopy Stringer
James Cushman	Billy Thames
George Dale	Anita Toler
Jane Dykes	Wilma White
Lester Herrington	Marty Wiseman
Wylma King	

Guest

Emily Pote, MRPEA Executive Director

Invocation

Ann Thames called on Howell Gardner to give the invocation. Gardner led the prayer.

Agenda Approval

Ann Thames asked for the approval of the board meeting agenda. Howell Gardner made a motion, Judy Clark seconded the motion, and all approved.

Pers Update

Ray Higgins, Executive Director of PERS, thanked us for having him and Davetta. He announced that Kimberly Hanna is the newest PERS Board Member and that Kelly Breland was reelected and that he is the board chair. The next election is the Retiree Representative election. Randy McCoy is currently holding that position and he plans to run again.

The 2018 new Actuarial and Evaluation report showed overall positive results. The projected funding ratio for 2047 is 95.8%. Two additional metrics were added to help effectively gauge the success of the fund. The Actuarial Experience Report is coming up in April.

Higgins answered questions about the Attorney General's opinion regarding who can run for office and how it affects their draw from PERS. PERS has asked some more questions and hopefully they will be addressed soon.

Old Business

Approval of October 8, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

Ann Thames asked for a motion to approve the October 8, 2018 board meeting minutes, which had been provided to the board members. Judy noted one error in the board member list. Margo Bowers moved for approval, and Judy Clark seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Mike Lightsey reported that for the 2018 fiscal year, the organization had a deficit of \$9,110.90. She also reported that as of January 13, 2019, the Trustmark checking account had a balance of \$27,454.24 and the Regions CD had a balance of \$45,105.28. Pote also presented the Expense report and Income report for October 8 through January 13, which included all expenses and income for this period. Expenses came to \$10,703.87 and income was at \$3,452.05. On the Profit and Loss Budget Vs Actual, Pote pointed out that total income for this fiscal year is \$6,445.00 and total expense is \$15,572.95. All Approved. Motion passed.

Lightsey had questions about our CD rates and noted that he would be researching better rates for the organization.

Executive Director's Report

Emily Pote presented her Executive Director's Report. She reported that she was already looking ahead to the 2019 annual meeting. She reported that the Spring newsletter would be going out shortly and she will be posting it online and on social media. She asked for any exhibiting ideas that the board had.

Committee Reports

Networking Committee

Mike Larsen reported that the Networking committee began contacting partners to see what they thought would happen this session. They see nothing this session, but could very likely see changes after the election. He also reported that the legislative survey would be going out and would be hand addressed.

Communications

Wynona Winfield reported that she continues to work with the District Directors. Winfield presented her communications report that noted that MRPEA is considering a clipping service.

She is also working on a Guardian Alert, something we can get out quickly to members. She also points to several articles that have come out lately with negative opinions about PERS.

Membership

Howell Garner presented the membership report. Since the beginning of the year, we have had 57 new annual members, 901 renewals, and 20 life members sign up. He encouraged everyone to reach out to those who might be interested in becoming a member.

Legislative Committee

Ann Thames reported for Ed Legrand that Senator Burton had to resign as Pro Tempore and Senator Tollison is the new Pro Tempore. Ann also reported that Jerry Mitchell was working on an article and Ann, Virgil, and Alton Cobb were quoted. In this letter for the newsletter, Ann mentioned the PERS Facts and Figures and hopes that if groups want to pull from that letter that they have some facts to quote.

Ann presented the Legislative Survey that will go out in March for all to review. She also presented her talking points that she wrote up for the Jerry Mitchell article.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ann Thames made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:07 AM. All approved, meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Emily Pote

Upcoming Meetings:

Monday, July 8, 2019 – Quarter 4 Board Meeting
Embassy Suites Ridgeland
Meeting – 10:00 AM, lunch to follow

Monday, July 8, 2019 – Annual Membership Meeting
Embassy Suites Ridgeland