

Charitable Trust Committee

Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2025 via Videoconference/Teleconference and In-Person

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Catherine Shannon, Co-Chair

Designee for State Treasurer Michael Frerichs (via videoconference)

Erica Spangler Raz, Co-Chair

Designee for Attorney General Kwame Raoul (via videoconference)

Dan McManus

Designee for the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (via videoconference)

Andreason Brown (via videoconference)

Ron Budzinski (via videoconference)

Joan Dixon (via videoconference)

Sheila Simon (via videoconference)

TREASURER'S STAFF

Alex Armour, Director of Charitable Trust
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Sara Meek, Chief Legislative & Policy Officer

Dennis Rendleman, Attorney
Illinois State Treasurer's Office

Austin Stadelman, Policy Analyst

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Ariana Correa

Designee for Illinois Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton

Brandon Purcell

Designee for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Students from the State and Local Government Law Class – Southern Illinois University, Simmons School of Law

1) Call to Order

Catherine Shannon called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

2) Welcome and Introductions

A brief moment of silence was held to observe the anniversary of the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks.

3) Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2025

Sheila Simon moved to approve the minutes. Joan Dixon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4) Update on Spring 2025 finalists and Spring and Fall 2024 grantees

Alex Armour gave a brief update on current grantees.

5) Report on Charitable Trust Fund

Alex Armour provided a report on the financial status of the fund.

6) Fall 2025 Applications and Timeline

Alex Armour provided a report on the current applicants and the expected staff and committee review process.

7) Charitable Trust Program Changes Discussion

Alex Armour presented an outline for the Small Food Program Grants pilot program.

Joan Dixon inquired about the types of organizations that might qualify for this program. Alex gave examples of the types of organizations that had been disqualified in the past but would qualify under the new program.

Sheila Simon inquired about the programs ability to continue to provide typical grants. Alex shared that projected financial status would allow for maintaining the current program and conducting the pilot.

Joan Dixon emphasized the impact of a grant of this size for a smaller organization.

Erica Spangler Raz, Joan Dixon, and Ron Budzinski raised issues about smaller organizations ability meet the 501(c)(3) requirements.

Ron Budzinski confirmed that the program would be available to “small food programs,” and not exclusively food pantries.

Alex Armour said the staff would work to address the issues raised by committee members.

Catherine Shannon shared with the committee information on the office’s next steps.

8) Public Comment

Joan Dixon thanked Treasurer Michael Frerichs and staff for visiting Sola Gratia Farm in Urbana.

9) New Business

No New Business

10) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.