



# Marion County Development

MISSION: *The mission of the Marion County Development Commission (MCDC), a department of county government, is to enhance the quality of life and standard of living in Marion County by promoting and developing Marion County as a quality destination to live, work and visit.*

## MINUTES

Marion County Development Commission

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, Central College, Graham Conference Center, Pella

MCDC Present:

David Vollmar, Megan Weiler Green and Rob Judkins.

Ex-Officio Present:

Carla Eysink

Others Present:

none

### WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS.

The regular meeting of the Marion County Development Commission was called to order by Chair, David Vollmar, at 7:15 a.m., Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at the Graham Conference Center on the campus of Central College in Pella. A quorum was not present. Commissioners proceeded with an email vote needed for any decisions. This message was communicated on June 8 at 1:25 p.m.

### ACTION ITEMS:

- The May minutes were reviewed. A motion (Weiler Green/Judkins) to approve was made. This item was sent out via email for approval. Motion carried.
- The May financial report was presented. A motion was made (Judkins/Weiler Green) to approve. Approval needed. Eysink also updated commissioners on the year-end budget status.

### DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

- Commissioners reviewed two bids that had been received to print the 2023 Red Rock Guide. Both bids were from quality printers, so the low bid from Town Crier, Ltd was selected. A motion was made (Judkins/Weiler Green) to pay the deposit. This item was sent out via email for approval. Motion carried.
- Commissioners discussed the 22-23 Leadership Red Rock program. A motion was made (Weiler Green/Judkins) to include 5 sessions at the same price as 21-22 program: \$175 per individual and \$165 per person for a team from one employer. This item was sent out via email for approval. Motion carried.
- Eysink updated commissioners on the status of the redrockarea.com website. The last major piece is to develop the Best of Red Rock Contest. Some of the categories/Top 10 lists are easier since they will pull from content already on the site while others need to be developed.
- Commissioners discussed the fiscal year end. David Vollmar was thanked for his 9 years of service to MCDC. David has been a strong advocate for countywide economic development. Commissioners discussed potential individuals to fill vacant positions. Vollmar agreed to make contacts.
- Commissioners discussed officers for FY22-23. A motion was made (Vollmar/Judkins) to approve the following slate of officers: Rob Judkins-Chair, Megan Weiler Green-Chair-Elect and Brian Thomas-Secretary/Treasurer. This item was sent out via email for approval. Motion carried.
- The June CONNECT meeting was discussed. Eysink indicated difficulty in getting speakers due to vacations and other meetings. The meeting will be moved back to July.
- Eysink indicated that Katie Lord is the new economic development contact with MidAmerican Energy following Deb Calvert's retirement. Katie will be visiting Marion County tomorrow to learn about the VA project and the industrial development project in Pleasantville from area leaders.
- Eysink indicated signing up for three IEDA tourism coop opportunities for tourism, but recommended that we work with locals to do some social media campaigns for workforce/business development outside of the IEDA coop. There was consensus to follow this direction.
- A motion was made (Judkins/Weiler Green) to approve the iTIP (Iowa Tourism Industry Partners) membership at \$200. The membership fee was higher than what was approved in May. This item was sent out via email for approval. Motion carried.

### HIGHLIGHTED PROJECT REPORTS:

- **Business Retention & Expansion (BRE):** Eysink is serving as chair on the process & implementation task force that is working to enhance the statewide business retention & expansion program in Iowa. Changes will be made starting in 2023. Visits will begin in July for 2022.
- **Succession Planning:** Eysink reported that a meeting is setup for area partners to initiate the plan put together in 2021 for succession planning. The group has been talking with UNI's Advance Iowa as a partner for a portion of this initiative.
- **Broadband:** Eysink discussed the need to pull together a local task force to discuss results from the broadband study.

### REGIONAL & COMMUNITY REPORTS:

- Lely opened their North American facility earlier this month. Lely park will also provide trails for the public and potential additional industrial space for supplier companies.

Meeting Adjourned.

