



# 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

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 3014 East Main Street, Knoxville, IA

**MCDC Present:** Megan Weiler Green, Kayla Flanders, Steffanie Bonnsetter, Jim Mitchell, Doug Stewart, Brian Thomas and Sara Roberts  
**Ex-Officio Present:** Carla Eysink  
**Others Present:** Travis Mitchell

### **CALL TO ORDER.**

The regular meeting of the Marion County Development Commission was called to order by Chair, Sara Roberts, at 7:15 a.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 3014 East Main Street in Knoxville.

Commissioners reviewed May & June minutes. A motion was made (Mitchell/Stewart) to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Yearend financials were reviewed. A motion was made (Weiler Green/Mitchell) to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- **Fiscal Year End Planning:** Commissioners reviewed the meetings and events for FY24-25. No changes to the schedule were made at this time.
- **Bandwango:** Eysink reported that a decision was needed on the digital passport contract with Bandwango for 2025. Staff recommended cancelling the contract and exploring options for creating soft trails through additional pages on the website. A motion was made (Stewart/Thomas) to cancel the contract with Bandwango for 2025. Motion carried.
- **CONNECT:** Commissioners discussed the June CONNECT meeting focusing on quality of life projects. The next meeting will be in October focusing on state legislative issues.
- **Strategic Plan Roll-out:** Commissioners continued discussion regarding strategic plan roll-out video. Eysink has a RFP document that will be sent out with the goal to get a firm identified in August. Commissioners gave consent to proceed with a email vote to approve the firm decision so work can continue.

### **PROJECT UPDATES:**

- **Housing Study:** Eysink continues to present information from the housing study and provide information upon request.
- **Renew Rural Iowa-Journey to your Future workshop:** The planning committee is working toward an October date at Cordova Park. Commissioners are encouraged to have businesses they know of attend the workshop. It is free to attend.
- **Best of Red Rock Contest:** Voting is underway and will continue until November 1. Eysink has updated the website which will update the ballot if businesses are closed or open.
- **BRE:** Christopher is working on the new CRM system and completing employer call visits. Our goal is to have over 30 visits before the end of September.
- **Quarterly Pulse Survey:** The first quarterly pulse survey was sent out and results were shared. Work will now focus on getting more businesses to participate so we can slice the data by sector, size of company and age of company. Hubspot is working well for this project.
- **Leadership Red Rock:** Promotion has gone out for the Leadership Red Rock program on Facebook, LinkedIn and email.
- **Partners for Rural America:** They will be tourism Knoxville and Pella on September 12.
- **GDSMP:** The Greater Des Moines Partnership will be holding a new event called the SUMMIT which will bring together members from across the region. The evening of the summit will include the GDSMP awards ceremony. If members are interested in attending the awards program, let Eysink know prior to Sept. 13.

### **COMMUNITY UPDATES:**

- Weiler hosted AEM (Association of Equipment Manufacturers) for a tour on July 1. The group was also at Vermeer on July 2.
- Ragbrai will be a concern for employers. The Marion County courthouse staff have the day off.
- Central is finishing work on a new football scoreboard and tennis courts.
- 2025 will be Pella Corp's 100<sup>th</sup> year and the 25<sup>th</sup> year for Weiler.

### **ADJOURN:**

Next regular meeting Tuesday, Sept. 17