

One Marshall County Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2025, at Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF)

In attendance: Jonah Best, Keegan Campbell, Matthew Celmer, Kevin Danti, Roger Eckger, Eric Holsopple, Jeff Houin, Justine Johnson, Robert Listenberger, Lisa Mullaney, Jason Nine, Gary Neidig, Martin Oosterbaan, Shawn Peterson, Jeremy Riffle, Chelsea Smith, Nicolas Witwer, Linda Yoder

Absent: Amanda Morris Feldman, Angela Workman, Ed Barcus, Jesse Burroughs. Keith Fraine, Andy Seddelmeyer

enFocus: Egla Bregu, Lisa Slomka, Andrew Wiand

Guests: Sandy Garrison, Greg Hildebrand

Discussion Topics

- **Quality of Place Spotlight**
 - Regional Plan:
 - Matthew Celmer and Anna Kietzman are involved with the regional arts plan
 - Trinity, the consulting group involved, will be touring the county
 - Opportunity for Marshall County to provide leadership with planning and to welcome artists from the region to the county
 - Work should wrap up late summer 2025
 - Each region in the state needs to have an arts plan before funding is decided
 - Regionally, parks, trails, and etc. are being thought of as part of arts & culture
 - Argos Alley Project could be good to include in the regional plan
 - Upcoming second discovery session in late April/early May
 - Bringing in any new information from the regional arts meeting
 - Hoping to bring in some representatives from Argos
 - Countywide art installation is in progress
 - Identifying locations within each municipality for installation
 - Some municipalities such as Argos plan to develop area around sculpture
 - Plymouth Historic Firehouse
 - Redoing brick work and the roof
 - Potential to build a cafe in the space and bring in for profit retail
 - Could combine with a nonprofit entity to manage the space
 - Would like to expand the MC Arts & Culture Council to a regional one
- **Committee Updates**
 - Education & Workforce Development/LLN
 - Plymouth Council approved \$250k for the Marshall County Career Center
 - Working through strategic planning for LLN
 - Housing & Infrastructure
 - Held a session with the County at their Quarterly Meeting for Growth to gather and confirm infrastructure priorities
 - The Regional Housing Group will likely be formed in the next month
 - Business Innovation & Growth/ MCEDC
 - Wabash Power Association Grant: bringing utilities to industrial areas
 - Collaborative Communities Grant: small business development workshops for creatives

- Quality of Life
 - Identified potential focus areas and looking to collaborate with the Housing & Infrastructure and Quality of place committees
 - ITAMCO is a participant in the tri-share program
 - MC Hope hired a new director and has a good group of partners
- Governance Committee
 - Sandy Garrison withdrew name for board nomination
 - Greg Hildebrand nominated for board
 - Discussion and vote on Greg's nomination tabled
- **Marshall County's regional participation**
 - 5 people from Marshall County in South Bend-Elkhart Regional Partnership
 - READI 2.0 funding is tied up at the state level
 - Important to keep an eye on how this will affect projects
 - Regional reorganizations may be coming: potential for other counties to join region
- **Property Tax Legislation**
 - Important to assess which funding sources and services are vulnerable
 - Will need to develop administration and structure within communities
 - Collaboration will be key – building strong partnerships and developing key assets
 - Important to identify focus areas that will have the most impact on the community
 - Possible role of municipalities aside from funding:
 - Help with getting the right people to the table for different projects
 - In kind services from municipalities for projects
- **Communication Approach**
 - Current focus: building awareness of One Marshall County through in person outreach and by creating basic social media pages
- **Strategic Planning**
 - SWOT Analysis: tabled until May meeting
 - Start thinking about strengths and weaknesses along the lines of the county as a whole, the committees, individual projects, etc.
- **Confirm Scheduling for Upcoming Meetings**
 - Next Official Business Meeting: May 21, 2025

Official Business

- New Motion: approve March minutes
 - Forwarded by Martin Oosterbaan
 - Seconded by Matthew Celmer
 - Approved unanimously
- New Motion: table discussion and approval of board member nominee
 - Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
 - Seconded by Gary Neidig
 - Approved unanimously
- New Motion: adjourn
 - Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
 - Seconded by Kevin Danti
 - Approved unanimously