

One Marshall County Board Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025, at Plymouth High School

In attendance: Jonah Best (online), Keegan Campbell, Kevin Danti, Roger Eckger (online), Amanda Morris Feldman, Eric Holsopple, Jeff Houin, Justine Johnson, Robert Listenberger, Gary Neidig, Martin Oosterbaan (online), Jeremy Riffle, Angela Workman, Linda Yoder.

Absent: Ed Barcus, Jesse Burroughs. Matthew Celmer, Keith Fraine, Lisa Mullaney, Jason Nine, Shawn Peterson, Andy Seddelmeyer, Chelsea Smith, Nicolas Witwer.

enFocus: Eglia Bregu, Lisa Slomka, Andrew Wiand

Guests: Aaron Esper, Allie Shook, Jeremy... (Allie's representative)

Meeting called to order- 8:05 am.

Discussion Topics

Introductions

Old Business - Operations

- Fundraising Strategy & Approach
 - Goal is to secure the funding by the end of the year.
 - The current approach is to develop a potential list of businesses to contact.
 - Board members are welcome to share names of businesses they think would like to get involved.
- Communications
 - Current State - basic website, word of mouth, share minutes with county councils.
 - Middle Ground- create a LinkedIn and/or Facebook page to post content.
 - Future state- more in-depth website, social media presence, newsletter.

New Business

- Strategic Planning Process
 - For each committee, the aim is to have 3 main areas to assess strategic action steps.
 - Current State Report in progress on identifying compelling points/initial priorities.
 - The methodology used discovery meetings and strategic planning sessions with board liaisons.
 - Would like to get the perspectives of the cities and towns.

Committee Updates

- Housing and infrastructure
 - Key areas of focus include utility infrastructure, road maintenance, and housing accessibility (considering what type of housing).
 - Distinguish areas where the communities(towns) have the same problems.
 - The intersection of class and race affects housing in MC.
 - Clear strategy of housing that is either aged-based or income-based should be considered. The wage issue ties into this committee too.

Education & Workforce Development (LLN)

- Focus on figuring out who they are apart from the career center.
- Career centers complement college and meet Marshall County's broader needs.
- The Career Center focuses on manufacturing and healthcare, MC's main industries. Each CT needs an advisory board to guide students and avoid confusion. Advisors are needed.
- What else should the workforce development team focus on? Should they set new priorities or stay the course?
- **Quality of Life**
 - The priorities focus more on the economic side than on necessary preventative resources.
 - MC is at risk from current legislation, mainly Medicaid cuts, impacting 17% of St. Joseph Health System's local patients.
 - Committees should analyze business size and wage investments. Are our target thresholds high enough to attract the right businesses?
 - Learn more about Dr. Schumacher's approach.
 - Primary care is a priority, but attracting doctors requires competitive salaries. Can MC focus on drawing healthcare primary providers and creating an environment for long-term retention?
- **Quality of Place**
 - Lilly Endowment Arts and Culture discussion touched on entertainment—some themes will stay, but not all. Can this committee be defined by 4-5 key project themes, e.g. venues, park spaces, music and entertainment, arts, etc? Are there other focus areas?
 - Additional emphasis is needed on design, space-making, transportation, trails, and walk/bike accessibility. Rally points, like the farmers market, support space-making.
 - MC tourism board and OneMC may need to consider collaboration
- **Business Innovation & Growth (MCEDC)**
 - Small business development is a key focus area.
 - Population growth is below the state and national averages.
 - The workforce is disengaged despite training access, they struggle with daily commitment.
 - The rise in part-time jobs limits benefits for MC residents.

Confirm Scheduling for Upcoming Meetings

- Next Official Business Meeting: April 16, 2025.
- Meeting adjourned - at 9:40 am, to continue with the tour of the Career Center.

Official Business

- New Motion: approve February minutes
 - Forwarded by Jeremy Riffle
 - Seconded by Eric Holsopple
 - Approved unanimously
- New Motion: adjourn
 - Forwarded by Linda Yoder
 - Seconded by Kevin Danti
 - Approved unanimously