

One Marshall County Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2025, at Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF)

Board Members in attendance: Jonah Best, Keegan Campbell, Matthew Celmer, Roger Ecker, Keith Fraine, Amanda Morris Feldman, Eric Holsopple, Justine Johnson, Robert Listenberger, Lisa Mullaney, Martin Oosterbaan, Andy Seddelmeyer, Chelsea Smith, Angela Workman, Linda Yoder

Absent: Ed Barcus, Jesse Bohannon, Kevin Danti, Jeff Houin, Gary Neidig, Shawn Peterson, Jeremy Riffle, Nicolas Witwer

Committee Leads: Sandy Garrison, Greg Hildebrand

enFocus: Megan Dale, Lisa Slomka, Andrew Wiand

Discussion Topics

- **Strategic Planning**
 - enFocus reviewed the strategic planning timeline, framework, and an updated process for committees to present priorities in advance of Board strategic planning workshops.
- **Quality of Place Committee Presentation**
 - Board liaison, Matthew Celmer, presented six committee priorities identified to date:
 - **Empowerment:** Establish regional arts & culture organization
 - **Education:** Increase arts and culture education and funding
 - **Engagement:** Increase the number of jobs and opportunities for artists [activate unused spaces such as Heartland Arts Center]
 - **Unity:** Increase the range of engaged artists [Countywide regional assessment]
 - **Well-being:** Integrate arts into daily life [public art, murals, trails, parks]
 - **Presence:** Increase the visibility of local art and artists [foster and develop local media production]
 - This committee process began with the existing Arts and Culture Council and will expand to include other stakeholders representing tourism, downtown development, and quality of place infrastructure.
 - Intention to align local strategies with the regional arts planning effort.
 - The regional assessment is underway, with a first meeting planned in July.
 - Marshall County is well-positioned for a leadership role based on the Arts and Culture Council model developed through Stellar.
 - Heartland Arts Project will be a key project for the region with an opportunity to attract artists from Elkhart and St. Joseph Counties.
 - Discussion about the need for the Quality of Place Committee to:
 - Tie arts to economic impact, potential revenue generation, and workforce benefits to build community support, align with the regional planning effort and attract funding.
 - Identify and unlock funding for projects owned by other entities, such as municipal infrastructure and arts projects.

- Increase community engagement and awareness of One Marshall County through visible projects
 - Celebrate and build on the unique culture of Marshall County and each town/city through arts
 - Identify and develop high-impact new offerings to attract tourism and new residents (e.g., connecting the towns with a trails system; housing/beautification projects)
- **Outreach**
 - enFocus presented a recommended relationship-first approach to ensure stakeholder voices are included as we set One Marshall County's strategy.
 - Board members volunteered to attend each municipal and county meetings to understand local government needs.
- **Free Discussion - Asks & Brainstorming**
 - The South Bend Elkhart Regional Partnership's regional arts and culture planning survey closed at the end of June, and focus groups are in progress. The steering committee will receive a draft plan in July. Consultants will be in person the week of July 21st and are planning a public engagement session about the draft plan on Tuesday, July 22nd. Additional details forthcoming.
 - Please spread the word to complete the Town of Argos' Comprehensive Plan survey.
 - WNIT is facing significant federal and state funding cuts and needs support for the restoration of funds.
 - Marshall County United Way received an Indiana United Way grant to continue the Tri-Share program through the end of this calendar year. Marshall County families are facing increased challenges in accessing CCDF vouchers and On My Way PreK funds due to the loss of funding and a significant waitlist. Please spread the word about the Tri-Share opportunity with employers in Marshall County.
- **Confirm Scheduling for Upcoming Meetings**
 - July 16, 2025

Official Business

- New Motion: approve minutes from the May 2025 meeting
 - Forwarded by: Matthew Celmer
 - Seconded by: Jonah Best
 - Approved unanimously
- New Motion: adjourn
 - Forwarded by: Matthew Celmer
 - Seconded by: Jonah Best
 - Approved unanimously