



# 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 Regular Meeting-Wed., May 12, 2021, Smokey Row Coffee House, 111 East Monroe Street, Pleasantville

MCDC Present:

David Vollmar, Rob Judkins, Brian Thomas, Barb Kniff McCulla, Jason Bingham and Mindi Sudman

Ex-Officio Present:

Carla Eysink

Others Present:

John Franey

### 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, May 12, 2021 at Smokey Row Coffee House in Pleasantville

### ACTION ITEMS:

1. A motion was made (McCulla/Thomas) to approve the April minutes. Motion carried.
2. A motion was made (Bingham/Judkins) to approve April financials. Motion carried.
3. Commissioners discussed the annual workplan. Commissioners also discussed the MCDC budget status for the current fiscal year. Not action.
4. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the MCDC Executive Director Performance Evaluation that will be conducted by the Marion County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, May 25.
5. Commissioners were invited to attend the Condition of Business presentation on May 26 at Vermeer Corporation starting at 10 a.m. with congressional and legislative leaders.
6. A motion was made (Thomas/McCulla) to approve \$1,500 annual membership for Opportunity2 Region, \$3,333 annual membership for Greater Des Moines Partnership, and \$500 annual membership for Iowa Association of Business & Industry. Motion carried.
7. A motion was made (Sudman/Judkins) to approve \$150 annual general membership for Iowa Tourism Industry Partners and \$600 annual county membership for the Central Iowa Tourism Region. Motion carried.
8. Commissioners discussed the Placemaking initiative. No action.
9. The MCDC Executive Committee will meet Friday, June 4 at the Brew starting at 8:30 a.m. to discuss a draft MCDC meeting schedule for FY21-22 and officer/appointment recommendations. No action will be taken at the Executive Committee meeting and a report will be presented to the full MCDC for consideration and possible action.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS UPDATES:

1. Work continues on the Targeted Industry Attraction Study by AdyAdvantage.
2. Eysink updated commissioners on the Teaching for the Workforce program. Due to lack of registrations, the program has been postponed.
3. The county government website is set to launch May 14: [marioncountyiowa.gov](http://marioncountyiowa.gov)
4. The Best of Red Rock Contest is now open for voting.
5. Congratulations to Butcher's Brewhuis for being selected the 2021 Outstanding Dining Location. MCDC wrote the nomination for the award. A presentation was held at the business with representatives from IEDA Tourism Office.

### REGIONAL REPORTS:

1. The Central Iowa Regional Broadband Survey is set to close May 14. HR Green will take the data to identify gaps and build strategies for addressing those gaps. Marion County is part of several counties working with the Greater Des Moines Partnership who is leading the project.
2. Work has begun by the steering committee for the EDD. This includes a SWOT analysis of the region for the CEDDS Strategy. Serving on the steering committee for Marion County is Eysink, Heather Ussery-City of Knoxville, Mayor Don DeWaard-City of Pella, Joe Mrstik-City of Pleasantville, and Dylan Morse-Marion County Bank.
3. Marion County and Mahaska County received approval to initiate a 4-company pilot for the Opportunity2 Region for economic gardening. Project coordinators have received training and webinars are scheduled with businesses.

### COMMUNITY REPORTS:

- Lots are selling well at the Spring View Housing Development in Pleasantville with houses selling for \$250,000 to 270,000.
- Veit was awarded the contract to demolish the VA Campus buildings. The bid was lower than original estimates. Also, in Knoxville, the former East Elementary School is being demolished by KEDC.
- Smash Park is coming to Pella. Housing developments around Pella continue to progress ahead of schedule.

Meeting Adjourned.