



# 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

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 3014 East Main Street, Knoxville, IA 50138

MCDC Present:

Megan Weiler Green, Doug Stewart, and Rob Judkins

Ex-Officio Present:

Carla Eysink

Others Present:

none

### CALL TO ORDER.

The regular meeting of the Marion County Development Commission was called to order by Chair, Rob Judkins, at 7:15 a.m., Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 3014 E. Main Street, Pella, IA. A quorum was not present. Members in attendance voted and minutes and financials will be approved at June meeting.

A motion was made (Weiler-Green/Stewart) to approve the minutes.

A motion was made (Stewart/Weiler-Green) to approve the financial report.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee met to discuss reappointments/appointments, FY 23-24 meeting schedule and FY23-24 Officers. A motion was made (Stewart/Weiler-Green) to approve the following officers: Megan Weiler Green-Chair, Sara Roberts-Chair-Elect, and Brian Thomas-Sec/Treas. Rob Judkins will complete 9 years on the commission at the end of June which will leave a Pella position open on the commission. Weiler-Green and Thomas are eligible for reappointment and have agreed to continue. The Executive Committee is working to fill the open position for the rural area with an individual from Bussey.
- **FY22-23 Year End:** Eysink indicated that it looks like the budget will be within limits even though revenue has exceeded the budget amount. She did not anticipate needing a budget amendment.
- **2024 Red Rock Area Guide Print Bid Process and Bidding:** Commissioner discussed the travel guide size and number of pages. Consensus was to keep it like the 2023 publication and go out for bid to gain an idea of cost. Bids will be reviewed at the June meeting.
- A motion was made (Weiler Green/Stewart) to approve the three memberships listed below:
  - **Greater Des Moines Partnership Annual Membership, \$3,333**
  - **Association of Business & Industry in Iowa Annual Membership, \$500**
  - **Iowa Travel Industry Partners Annual Membership, \$300**
- **Bandwango:** The second portion of the Bandwango contract is due in June for \$7,250. This project has already been approved. MCDC received a \$9,000 grant from the Iowa Tourism Office for this project.
- **Digital Passport Prizes:** As part of the digital passports, participants can earn prizes. The level 1 prize will be a sticker and participants that earn 10 points can be entered into quarterly drawings for gift baskets. Eysink requested funding up to \$1,200 to purchase local gift certificates for these prizes. A motion was made (Stewart/Weiler-Green) to approve this expenditure. Vote will be delayed until June.
- **CONNECT:** The next CONNECT meeting is scheduled for June 2 at Weiler. The meeting will focus on child care issues.
- **MCDC Meeting Schedule:** Eysink distributed a draft schedule for programs and meetings in FY23-24. Members decided to delay approval until June meeting.
- **May 23 Performance Evaluation:** Eysink invited commissioners to attend the MCDC Executive Director performance evaluation on May 23 during the regular Board of Supervisors meeting.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Rural Summit:** Eysink was a speaker at the recent Rural Summit. She shared information on MCDC business exit planning initiative. Heather Ussery was honored as a rural champion at the conference.
- **2023 Red Rock Guide:** Distribution continues.
- **MCCF:** Eysink indicated an application was submitted to the Marion County Community Foundation for the housing study.
- **Bandwango:** MCDC has started work with Bandwango to develop the A to Z Foodie Trail which will be the first passport released. MCDC is working with VisitPella, Mahaska Chamber and Knoxville Raceway to develop the passport experience and marketing.
- **Succession Planning:** Staff is working on writing and design an Exit Planning Workbook for businesses. The goal is to be completed by the end of June.

### ADJOURN:

Next meeting Wednesday, June 14 at 7:15 at the Main Street Market in Pella.