



# 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, February 21, 2024, 3014 East Main Street, Knoxville

MCDC Present:

Megan Weiler Green, Jim Mitchell, Steffanie Bonnstetter, Doug Stewart, and Sara Roberts

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, Megan Weiler Green, at 7:15 a.m., Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 3014 East Main Street, Knoxville.

Commissioners reviewed November and January minutes. A motion was made (Roberts/Stewart) to approve the minutes for both meetings. Motion carried.

Q2 financials were reviewed. A motion was made (Mitchell/Bonnstetter) to approve the financial report. Motion carried.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Top 10 Under 40 Review Committee:** A task force reviewed the Top 10 Under 40 nominations and proposed 10 individuals to receive the honor. A motion was made (Stewart/Roberts) to approve the task force recommendation. Motion carried.
- **Best of Red Rock 2024:** Commissioners discussed the categories and Top 10 lists used in 2023. Consensus was to keep the same categories and top 10 lists for the 2024 contest.
- **Red Rock StartUP! & Young Entrepreneur Awards (YEA):** March 1 is the deadline for both programs. Commissioners were encouraged to promote the program to new business owners they knew. The event will be April 18.
- **Assistant Director:** Eysink shared with commissioners a timeline for finding an assistant director. The next step will be to receive permission to post/hire from the Board of Supervisors. Once permission is granted then a search committee and promotion strategy for listing the position will be coordinated. Commissioners discussed staffing needs and the proposed timeline.
- **Strategic Plan-Organization & Staffing Discussion:** Commissioners discussed options for organization structure and the pros/cons with each option. They also discussed staffing needs for the new strategic plan. This discussion will continue over the next couple of months. No action was taken.

### PROJECT UPDATES:

- **Best of Red Rock 2023:** Attendance was good at the morning Best of Red Rock announcement event. There may be a need next year for more chairs to accommodate the group size.
- **Leadership Red Rock:** Commissioners discussed how to better engage class members to increase attendance. The option of moving the session to the late afternoon vs. evening perhaps on every other year was an option. This would make the class fall during the normal working day which could help encourage better attendance. The final schedule will be set in June.
- **2024 Red Rock Guide:** The guide is now being distributed to local points as well as statewide welcome centers.
- **CONNECT Quarterly Meeting:** The April meeting will focus on quality-of-life projects and tourism as well as the MCD Annual Business Report. This meeting will be held at Cordova Park.
- **Housing Study:** The consultant is working to gather data. The final report is expected in late spring.

### COMMUNITY UPDATES:

- None

### ADJOURN:

Next regular meeting Wednesday, February 21, 3014 E. Main Street, Knoxville, IA