



MARATHON COUNTY EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Tuesday, August 20, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

Marathon County Historical Society, 410 McIndoe Street, Wausau, WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Sara Guild, Chair	X	
Romey Wagner, Vice Chair		X
Gary Beastron	X	
Alyson Leahy	X	
Ka Lo	X	
Rick Seefeldt	X	
Loren White	X	

Others Present: Sandi Cihlar, Lance Leonhard, Jason Hausler, Russ Wilson, Mary Forer

1. Call Meeting to Order

The Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Chair Guild.

2. Public Comment: None

Sandi Cihlar, Historical Society Board Member and County Board Supervisor welcomes the committee to the Historical Society and thanks members for learning more about the organization.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the July 16, 2019, Extension, Education & Economic Development Committee Meetings.

Action:

MOTION BY LO, SECOND BY LEAHY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2019 MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution: None

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. Regional Sports and Events Facilities Feasibility Studies Update

Discussion:

Chair Guild provides an overview of the genesis of each of the two studies, noting that the Regional Sports and Events Facility study and the Outdoor Recreation Facility study were recently formally released and discussed at a community meeting in Rib Mountain. Guild notes that these items are on the agenda for informational purposes at this time and that, given the length of each of the reports, she wanted to provide the information as soon as possible, as opposed to waiting until the committee may be tasked with considering any particular action.

Guild and Deputy Administrator Leonhard answer questions from several committee members regarding each of the respective studies. During the discussion, consensus develops that broad support from the municipalities throughout Marathon County, particularly within the metropolitan area, will be essential to move this project forward. Several supervisors note that overcoming individual “parochial interests” will be difficult, but the decision of where to site each facility must be made with the sustainability of the facility in mind.

During the discussion committee members express the importance of seeking a broad partnership with entities throughout the community, the consideration of mass transit, and the value in seeking direct input from event promoters as the projects move forward.

Follow through:

Committee members request to remain apprised of significant progress in this effort as it occurs.

B. UW-Madison Division of Extension

1. Update on efforts of local educators

Discussion:

Jason Hausler summarizes his written update relative to Extension staff efforts and answers questions from the committee. Chair Guild notes that the committee members will be receiving a more detailed explanation relative to the County’s broadband study in the near future. A county supervisor notes the significant impact that the horticulture educator had during her tenure in Marathon County, expressing a desire that the county continue to invest in horticulture education. Another committee member notes the impressive work of Katelyn Bernarde during the planning and execution of the Wisconsin Valley Fair.

Follow through:

None at this time.

C. Marathon County Historical Society presentation, including discussion of upcoming events

Discussion:

Historical Society President Russ Wilson, board member Sandi Cihlar, and Executive Director Mary Forer, appear before the committee. Wilson provides a series of handouts to committee members and discusses some of the important work of the society, summarizing the economic impact of the Historical Society’s exhibits and programs within the area and the significant number of historical texts and artifacts that are currently preserved by Historical Society staff.

Wilson generally discusses the nature of the items preserved by the society, noting that that the Historical Society’s facilities are essentially full and that more space is necessary to properly maintain the records and make them accessible for the public. Wilson notes that the Historical Society has acquired the necessary land for the construction of an archival facility adjacent to the Woodson House; however, the funding for the facility is a significant obstacle.

Wilson, Forer, and Cihlar note that the fiscal support of Marathon County is a significant source of the organization’s overall budget.

Follow Through: None at this time.

7. **Announcements, Next Meeting Date and Time:**

A. Future committee calendar

1. September 10, 2019 – Chair Guild notes that this meeting is the second Tuesday of the

- month, as opposed to the third Tuesday. Guild indicates that she is attempting to arrange for a presentations on the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Strategic Plan.
- B. MCDEVCO article request – Guild explains the nature of the request and asks that committee members reach out to her with ideas for items to include.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, MOTION BY SEEFELDT, SECOND BY BEASTROM, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING, COMMITTEE MEMBERS TOOK PART IN A TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INCLUDING THE WOODSON HISTORY CENTER AND THE YAWKEY HOUSE MUSEUM FROM HISTORICAL SOCIETY STAFF. NO FORMAL COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OR BUSINESS WAS DISCUSSED AND NO FORMAL ACTION WAS TAKEN.

Minutes prepared

by Lance Leonhard on August 20, 2019.