



CCI-Guiding Coalition Meeting

November 12, 2024

Venue: Community Courtyard

Attendance: 19 Clinton County citizens including Navigation Team officers Joe Gagnon, Jan Schwarz, Christel Gollnick, Debbie Davis, Kristy Young, Diane Shryock, Chad Howerton and Jim Patrico. Other attendees included Lathrop City Administrator Bob Burns, Plattsburg Mayor David Jett, Trimble Alderman Mike Shryock, Bill Beane, Mandy Beane, Plattsburg City Alderman Richard Stanley, Plattsburg City Manager Steve Garrett and new Clinton County library board of trustees, Trey Talley, Tony Stone, Jennifer Howerton and Paul Pottier.

Call to Order: By President Joe Gagnon at 7 p.m.

Attendees introduced themselves and gave an update on events in their communities.

Jim Patrico updated the group on progress on a Clinton County online visitors' guide.

Joe Gagnon updated the group on the innovation center/library including the establishment by the county commissioners in early October of a countywide library district. Since Cameron has its own tax-funded municipal library, its city limits are excluded from the countywide library district. The Clinton County library board of trustees are Christel Gollnick, Jennifer Howerton, Paul Pottier, Tony Stone and Trey Talley.

The new library district has five years to earn funding through a property tax levy. Consensus is that a levy should be on a ballot soon, perhaps as early as April 2025. A simple majority would pass the measure. It's estimated that for the voting demographics, a simple majority might be 1,100. Christel shared with the group survey results that indicated strong support among Clinton Countians of a countywide library.

New business

President Gagnon asked the group to approve changes in bylaw language. A motion to do so passed with no dissent. (Mike Shryock/Chad Howerton).

The group nominated (Mike Shryock/Diane Shryock) and elected Gagnon to a new two-year term.

The group broke into three discussion groups and reconvened in 30 minutes. Reports from the breakout groups:

Visitors' guide: Purpose of the guide is to attract visitors to the county primarily from nearby metropolitan areas. Marketing theme will be "Find Rural America Just Up the Road." Attractions highlighted will include outdoor recreation at Wallace State Park, Smithville Lake, Trice-Dedman Memorial Woods, Hartell Conservation Area and McGee Family Conservation Area. Other major attractions include Shatto Milk Company and the Abbey of Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles. The guide will stress the county's history museums, town festivals, art, music, car shows, wine walk, historic homes and more.

The 2026 World Cup activities in the Kansas City area could bring visitors to Clinton County.

A follow up project will be a countywide calendar of events.

Fundraising: Goal is \$10,000. CCI will begin asking for donations (\$25 is a starting point) from its members and ask those members to get five others to donate. CCI is a 501(c)(3) organization. Fundraising events were discussed including a dinner and a gala. Community support from businesses will be a priority. A link will be established for online contributors.



Friends of the Library (FOL): Emphasis will be on a get out the vote campaign. Diane Shryock asked for volunteers and for names of potential volunteers. Solid, positive responses to questions from voters will be developed. Talking points will be distributed. FOL will stress that a library/innovation center will benefit the next generation and the future of the county. Volunteers should be able to tell the story of the new facility's benefits and answer questions about the library's policies. How will FOL reach people? Face to face. Contact with service clubs such as Rotary. Adult education will be part of the facility's mandate. Diane will try to arrange a meeting soon for FOL volunteers. Sights set on the April 2025 ballot.

Christel announced that Great Northwest Day at the Capital is the first Monday in February and ask for volunteers to represent Clinton County.

There was a brief discussion of the timing of the next Guiding Coalition meeting. Some were in favor of noon meetings, some in favor of evening meetings. The Navigation Team will discuss and decide at its November 20 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.