



100 Dayton Street, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

YSDC@YSDC.org

www.YSDC.org

Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | 4:30–6:00 PM
Miami Township Conference Room

Voting Members: Will Foster (President), Kevin McGruder (Secretary), Marilan Moir (Treasurer), Lisa Abel, Trish Gustafson, Joanne Lakomski, Michael Slaughter,

Ex-Officio: Jeannamarie Cox, Phillip O'Rourke, Rebecca Potter

Staff: Meg Leatherman, Aaron Arellano

Guest: Debbie Downey, Michelle Giguere

Invited: YS News Reporter

Absent: Johnnie Burns, Jane Fernandes, Will Foster, Terri Holden, Steve Wirrig

1. Call to Order (Housh, 4:31pm)

Brian chaired the meeting in Will's absence. Joanne made motion for the meeting to be called to order which was seconded by Lisa, and approved unanimously. Brian suggested that in the future people inform Meg before the meeting if they will not be able to attend. In preparation for their presentation later in the meeting, Joanne introduced Debbie Downey and Michelle Giguere, from the YS Children's Center, and the YSDC members introduced themselves.

2. Treasurer's Report (Moir)

Marilan noted an increase of \$500 in revenue received because dues paid. She noted that there is a lag in reporting of \$2,000 in dues payments that were paid in May.

3. President's Report (Housh, in the absence of Foster)

Brian noted that in reading the minutes of the May meeting he reflected on where we are going, and observed that he believed it would be nice to agree on a few things on what we were doing in the past. He noted that he developed a one-pager of what we did in 2024. He explained that he will submit it in his YSDC update to Council, and that other organizations are welcome to use it. Meg noted that she has been including YSDC updates in the weekly Manager's report to Council.

4. Director's Report (Leatherman)

Meg drew the Board's attention to the Business First information sheet that was included in the meeting materials, noting that the Village of Yellow Springs was a member of Business First in the past. She explained that the Village is developing a formal agreement for Business First participation that the Montgomery County Commissioners are reviewing. She explained that Business First is a customer relation management (CRM) system. She noted that Business First is an arm of Montgomery County, so their commissioners review the agreement.

5. Strategic Initiatives & Ideas (All)

Meg drew the Board's attention to material included with the Board packet distributed at the beginning of the meeting and reviewed the three sections of the document.

1. Branding and Marketing Strategy: There was some discussion on the need to distinguish what YSDC does from what the Chamber does. Lisa noted that the downtown business committee has decided to pause its work. Michael noted that our identity should be aligned with the current quality of life. Rebecca noted that views on aspects of values differ between people. We might need a robust discussion to determine that. Meg said that she had a document that includes a values discussion. Rebecca noted that there may be different perspectives between the township and the Village on values. Brian noted that there were different perspectives regarding the township on the point of values. Brian suggested that the paragraphs [in the memo to Council to ask for the \$40,000] and to update it to make the proposal to the Township. Meg agreed to bring that information back to us for the next meeting. Trish expressed concern that the community does not know what YSDC is doing.

2. "Move Your Business to Yellow Springs" Initiative

- Meg noted that this section is meant to generate ideas to spread the word that we want businesses to locate here. It was suggested that the local network be mapped, and outreach will be started soon. She noted that the YSDC promo video is being updated.
 - o What kind of business would thrive and be a good fit in Yellow Springs?
Rebecca proposed a need for a larger city planning view to see what businesses we need to make this an autonomous community; she noted the challenges that several current businesses seem to be experiencing and suggested that YSDC could play a role in determining ways to support them; Joanne noted that Yellow Springs has a Chautauqua-esque history of community-wide intellectual discourse that could be drawn on. She also noted that the legacy of innovation and makers in Yellow Springs is important to build on. Brian asked whether Johnnie has agreed that Ben [Guenther] has time to work on the promotional video. Meg said she was not sure, but will have the answer by the July meeting.

3. Fall Event: e.g. first week in September.

Discussed the time of day, Trish 4:30pm-6:30pm

1. What would make the event meaningful? Lisa suggested inviting a business such as Nook Overland [camper company in Millworks] to present. Marilan noted business consultant Diana Nesbitt seemed open to offering assistance. Joanne suggested someone to discuss financing and location opportunities.
2. Who should we be to invite? Brian suggested representatives from Miami Valley Regional Planning Association, other planning officials, and local entrepreneurs such as the Brewery, Cresco, Allison Moody-- folks who are here and thriving. Rebecca suggested staff from the Village to answer infrastructure questions. Rebecca suggested MVECA; Michael suggested Intel, and other large businesses. Brian suggested creating a Google doc to begin capturing names. Meg suggested

that we email information to her, noting that there are government restrictions on sharing Google docs.

6. Consent agenda

Trish made a motion, that was seconded by Joanne to approve the consent agenda accepting the Treasurer's report as presented, and the minutes of the May 6, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Develop Local: The Yellow Springs Community Children's Center (YSCCC)

Joanne introduced the Debbie Downey, Michelle Giguere, Board members of the Yellow Springs Children's Center. Michelle shared a Power Point presentation on YSCCC; begun in 1926 one of the first two in OH; has a long history of inclusivity; 5-star certified. She noted ongoing professional development opportunities for staff, and a current summer camp program. Enrollment was 73 students from 65 families in April 2025. Michelle noted that they accept children from 6 weeks old to age 12. She noted that the center has a gold star rating and accepts Title XX monies; its most recent annual income was \$622, 757 with grants representing 63% of revenue; Trish: asked about the YSCCC's ability to serve special needs children; Michelle explain that the YSCCC partners with schools if the children are school –age and with Miami Valley Easter Seals to refer them to schools. Early intervention up to 3 years of age. They are currently working on capital improvements, since their original building dates from 1954 with an addition made in 1983.

8. New Business Announcements:

Philip noted that the Funky Flamingo retail store has opened at 108 Dayton, and indicated that the owners wanted to carry thing that aren't available in YS. They carry plus-sized women's clothing which surveys indicated are needed. He reported that the Joynt THC products opened where the Import House was, and noted that they have inventory sourced from local artists; It was announced that Bri's bike stand (in the Wildflower rock garden) is being operated by Briana Ayers. It was mentioned that Bookplate Inc w Karen Gardner is active again. Jane Browler Black Barn Vegary (ice cream sandwiches) is in Rose & Sal's.

9. Community Feedback

KM announced Antioch commencement on Saturday, June 21st with Rev. William Barber as keynote speaker. Philip noted that the Village Street Fair on Saturday, 6/14 will have a kid zone

10. Adjournment

Joanne offered a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Trish and approved unanimously at 6:05

Kevin McGruder, Secretary