

Gabbie McConkey opened the meeting with an introduction and welcomed visitors.

The Sep minutes were reviewed.

- Motion made and 2nd given; all in favor, none opposed; motion carried.

Financial report provided, reviewed, discussed, approved.

The MCOAC Community Fund Grant application DRAFT was reviewed and updated by the group.

Town Hall meeting date was discussed. November 14, 2023 at 6:30 (at Monroe County Schools Central Office) was decided upon, with a zoom live stream and recording to be made available by the PWC for the general public and other MCOAC members who are unable to attend in person. Mayor asked about the format and purpose. Intention is to be informational without a Q&A opportunity. An agenda will be provided.

Discussion re: marketing the Town Hall marketing was held. Social media, both newspapers, and both radio stations were the agreed upon targeted media outlets. Graphic design with Zoom information \*(for both the Town Hall and FAQ meeting) will be handled by PWC and provided to members for distribution.

The Press Release was combed through and modified to meet the needs of the current group and upcoming Town Hall meeting. Info about the Town Hall meeting will be prioritized in the press release, with additional info about the meeting to follow the "when and where". It was asked that the graphic be distributed by Wednesday 10/25/23

Zoom for potential grant applicants will be hosted on December 1st Noon for Q&A. Participants will need to be muted. Chat box will need to be monitored closely for feedback and response.

Application open date: January 1, 2024 with a due date of February 15, 2024. All other dates as previously discussed and noted in packets sent to members were approved. One edit was requested for the application review date so it will read "2 weeks from application due date" as opposed to "Town Hall meeting".

93k from Food City going into this fund, per Mayor's newest receipt of opioid dollars from most recent settlement and distribution. This puts us just north of 5 million to date. This is referencing dollars specific to MCOAC, not including other abatement dollars that are already allocated otherwise. Dr. Levin asked about the specifics of incoming \$, clarification was provided.

Further conversation was held re: the amounts of requests and ability to prioritize based upon potential impact and community need. It should be included in the app a max/cap amount of "up to \$500k". Note on app "smaller grant applications are encouraged and accepted". We don't want to specify categories to limit or restrict our abilities for selecting applications. Numbers should be included in the press release for the Town Hall meeting to attract attendees. Tulli will be asked to attend on behalf of the Buzz.

Questions were raised about presenting applications to the County Commission for final vote and approval. Recommendations made will be for individual applicants and votes for each will be required, separate from one another. A 5pm workshop will be held with the commissioners prior to the meeting where votes are to be cast.

Gabbie requested a RSVP from members for the Town Hall Meeting. She also urged members to review the grant application and make suggestions for any changes needed.

It was shared that applicants are able to apply for state and county dollars, especially considering the announcement awards with the state are not anticipated until May 2024.

**The next meeting will be held November 14, 2023 at 9 am in the JP Kennedy room.**