

Community Vision Planning Town Hall Meeting

Meeting Summary Notes

Spencer County Public Library

4/23/2026, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Major Announcement

Spencer County secured **nearly \$900,000** in state funding on its first advocacy trip to Frankfurt: **\$578,400 for Main Street improvements** and **\$300,000 for Stidger Cabin restoration**. The success stemmed from organized citizen engagement, unified city-county leadership, detailed project proposals with budgets, and strong relationships built with state legislators, Kentucky Historical Society, Heritage Council, and Economic Development Cabinet.

Key Success Factors for Replication

The Frankfurt trip and project funding requests succeeded because the delegation arrived with: (1) **organized, passionate citizens** demonstrating community investment, (2) **detailed white papers** with specific asks and budgets, (3) **unified city-county leadership** showing consensus, and (4) **pre-identified, shovel-ready projects** already budgeted and organized on the back end. Speaker noted legislators respond when constituents clearly articulate priorities, and projects must be "spoon fed" with specifics rather than vague requests. The process emphasized building trusted relationships so Spencer County becomes a reliable funding recipient.

Identified Priorities for Next Advocacy Round

All SubCommittees

The community is now preparing for regular Frankfurt visits and identifying next-round priorities to support growth from 22,000 to an anticipated 44,000 residents while preserving small-town character.

Infrastructure & Economic Development:

- Natural gas expansion to attract light industrial/distillery businesses; existing service identified at Whitfield subdivision and 31E/federal highway intersection
- Industrial park development near natural gas access points for distilleries and canning operations
- Highway expansion to improve lake access and connectivity between uptown Settler's Trace area and Main Street
- Water line extension to middle school; lead pipe replacement addressing water pressure issues

Tourism & Lake Development:

- Hotel development through private equity/investor group model
- Identify new marina ownership plans: cabin construction, family beach area, building renovations underway
- County lease/purchase of lakeside land for potential side-by-side trails, convention center
- Golf course revitalization through investor partnerships; current owners open to leasing to prevent subdivision development
- State park campground reopening: 99.3% complete as of meeting, anticipated Memorial Day opening

Community Services:

- Harvest table program for food gleaning and distribution to address food scarcity
- Kids Cafe and Senior Cafe for hot meals
- Low-income housing and veterans village (tiny house model similar to Shelby County)
- Meal-in-a-bag food bank model with recipes and complete ingredients

Small Business Support:

- Small business incubator fund (unfunded in first round, still priority)
- Tax credit assistance for historic building renovations; Main Street team learning application process through Sarah and Trevor Brown's second-floor apartment project
- Business incentives and retention programs

Pending Confirmation

- Pavilion specifications: outdoor bathrooms confirmed, but unclear if building with commercial kitchen/stage/offices will be publicly accessible during non-event times
- Sewer expansion scope and locations: proposed pump station in Elk Creek and 55 corridor extension require community discussion on density/development trade-offs
- Ballpark construction timeline and school land grant finalization
- Small business subcommittee priorities integration into infrastructure committee
- Golf course investor partnership details

Strategic Relationships Established

- **Kentucky Historical Society:** Provided \$16,500 for America 250 initiatives; conducted site visits to Stidger House and Taylorsville projects
- **Heritage Council:** Engaged on courthouse preservation and heritage conservation
- **Economic Development Cabinet:** Large meeting with 10-12 representatives; identified as major funding source for future projects
- **Key legislators:** Met with budget committee members and House leadership
- **Kentucky Distillers Association:** Recommended industrial park development near natural gas infrastructure

Communication Tools Deployed

- **Lake and Main Gazette:** New countywide newsletter at Country Mart, Teacup, County Judge's Office, State Park, Army Corps; half tourist-focused, half local event calendar
- **SKOOL platform:** Algorithm-free social media alternative for businesses and organizations; free version available, Stephanie Carroll offering setup services

Upcoming Events

- **Liberty Tree Dedication:** Monday, April 27 at 5:30 PM at Stidger Cabin site; DAR-sponsored tulip poplar planting with dignitaries (alternate ceremony 2:30 PM same day at Bardstown Community Park)
- **Sweet Little Derby fundraiser:** May 9, 4-6 PM at Stidger Cabin; stick horse races for children, ice cream, Derby hat contest, cash donations 38
- **Dinner in Jail fundraiser:** This Saturday, April 25th, \$25 to jail someone, Judge Brian Brashear sets bail, Josh Bogart performing 39
- **Extension Office harvest table meeting:** June 4 at 1 PM to discuss food scarcity solutions

- **Tourism Subcommittee Meetings:** 4th Tuesdays at 1pm, Small Town Tavern

Action Items

- **Tourism Subcommittee:** Execute uptown tailgate/night market pilot at fall football games. Get pavilion details to share with the community (capacity, booking process, amenities) for promotion.
- **Infrastructure Subcommittee:** Obtain small business subcommittee priorities from Trevor Brown and Melissa Osborne. Vickie Yates-Glisson to facilitate golf course investor meeting between ownership and Louisville investment group. Assess sewer expansion planning.
- **Community Services Subcommittee:** Test SKOOL platform vs. social media for harvest table/blessing box location communication. Coordinate with Country Mart on meal-in-a-bag donation program with fresh ingredients.
- **All committees:** Identify and document next 2-year priorities with specific budgets for upcoming Frankfurt sessions