

Friday, October 24, 2025 at 11:29:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time

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**Subject:** Community Vision Planning Meeting Recap  
**Date:** Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 2:47:01 PM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Katherine Scott  
**To:** Scott Travis, Karen Spencer, Commissioner Yates-Glisson, Terry Vaughn, Melissa Osborne, Steve Conte, Commissioner Downs, TERRI COOPER, Commissioner Purvis  
**Attachments:** image001[97].png

To the newly formed Community Vision Planning Committee,

Thank you all for an inspiring and positive meeting this morning. Here are a few notes and updates from the meeting.

Cheers to you all and this mighty endeavor!

Katherine

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## Meeting summary

### Key takeaways

- The committee is preparing budget requests for Frankfurt with five main projects: Stidger House, Main Street Project 5, Downtown Park, County Sanitation District, Small Business Incubation Project
- A community vision planning meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 5:30pm (pending Scott's schedule) to gather broader input from community stakeholders
- Professional facilitation is needed for the vision planning meeting, with committee members seeking quotes from potential facilitators
- The group plans to organize a trip to Frankfurt in early January to lobby for their funding requests

### Discussed topics

#### Professional facilitation for community vision planning

The committee discussed hiring a professional facilitator for their upcoming community vision planning meeting.

- **Details**

- **Katherine:** Presented a quote from Barry Alberts of the Whalen Company for \$2,000 plus additional costs
- **Vickie:** Expressed concern about the cost and suggested getting additional quotes from facilitators with rural experience
- **Terry:** Mentioned having contacts who might provide facilitation services
- **Scott:** Emphasized the importance of having someone who facilitates rather than guides the content

- **Conclusion**

- The committee agreed professional facilitation is needed
- Vickie and Terry will seek additional quotes from potential facilitators
- The facilitator should focus on process rather than content

### **Community vision planning meeting**

The committee planned a community meeting to gather broader input on community priorities.

- **Details**

- **Katherine:** Suggested inviting community stakeholders to participate in vision planning
- **Scott:** Emphasized the importance of identifying stakeholders and getting their input
- **Multiple members:** Suggested various organizations to invite including Chamber of Commerce, Tourism, State Park, Historical Society, Stidger Foundation, American 250, Main Street, city and county government, library, and others

- **Conclusion**

- The meeting will be held on November 13th at 5:30 PM at the Chamber Hall
- Each organization will be asked to send two representatives (leader & doer)
- The meeting will focus on future priorities rather than current budget requests

### **Frankfurt lobbying trip**

The committee discussed organizing a trip to Frankfurt to lobby for their funding requests.

- **Details**

- **Katherine:** Suggested organizing a bus trip to Frankfurt in early January
- **Vickie:** Recommended coordinating with Representatives Higdon and Tipton to determine the best date and approach
- **Vickie:** Suggested the possibility of having a "Spencer County Day" recognized in the legislature
- **Katherine:** Mentioned Don Parkinson's suggestion to follow Paducah's model of securing a room where legislators come to them

- **Conclusion**

- The trip will be scheduled for January
- Katherine will coordinate with Representatives Higdon and Tipton on timing
- The committee will determine who should attend and how to divide into smaller groups

for meetings

## **Budget requests for Frankfurt**

The committee discussed current budget requests that need to be submitted immediately to Frankfurt.

- **Details**

- **Scott:** Confirmed four projects are already in progress: Stidger House, Main Street Project 5, Downtown Park (formerly ballpark), and County Sanitation District
- **Vickie:** Explained that legislators are currently asking for budget request forms to be completed with signatures from representatives carrying the requests
- **Katherine:** Offered to create legislative packets for the projects including budget information and letters of support
- **Scott:** Noted that Senator Higdon is supporting the Stidger House request and Representative James Allen Tipton is supporting the Downtown Park project

- **Conclusion**

- The four existing projects will be the focus for immediate funding requests
- Each project needs proper documentation and letters of support
- The committee will ensure all necessary forms are completed for submission

## **Small business incubation project**

The committee discussed adding a small business grant program to their funding requests.

- **Details**

- **Katherine:** Proposed a small business grant program to provide equipment for new businesses in the downtown area
- **Scott:** Expressed concern about adding new projects when the county has limited resources
- **Vickie:** Mentioned Larry Horne from Amplify who has access to startup funds and wants to meet with county officials

- **Conclusion**

- The small business incubation project will be developed as a separate request from Main Street beautification
- Vickie will arrange a meeting with Larry Horne, the city, county, Main Street, and tourism

## **State Park development**

The committee briefly discussed potential development at the state park.

- **Details**

- **Derek:** Mentioned that Chris Meyer is coming to meet about economic development at the park
- **Scott:** Noted that the park receives approximately 20,000 visitors per month

- **Vickie:** Asked about the possibility of the county purchasing 100 acres from the Corps of Engineers
- **Scott:** Clarified that the county would not purchase the land but might accept it if given for free
- **Conclusion**
  - No immediate funding requests for the state park were identified
  - The committee will wait to see what Chris Meyer proposes

## Challenges

- Finding an affordable and appropriate facilitator for the community vision planning meeting
- Coordinating multiple funding requests with limited time before budget submissions are due
- Ensuring all necessary documentation and support letters are gathered quickly
- Organizing an effective lobbying trip to Frankfurt with multiple stakeholders
- Balancing immediate funding requests with long-term vision planning

## Action items

- **Katherine**
  - Create legislative packets for Stidger House, Main Street Project 5, Small Business Incubation Project
  - Contact Representatives Higdon and Tipton about budget request forms
  - Organize invitations for the November 13th community vision planning meeting
  - Coordinate with Representatives about the January Frankfurt trip
  - Obtain letters of support for the Downtown Park project
  - Request the Extension Office or Chamber Hall for November 13th
    - **UPDATE: Extension Office not available except for small sewing room, checking now with Chamber of Commerce board.**
- **Vickie**
  - Contact Don Parkinson and Penny ? about potential facilitators
  - Arrange a meeting with Larry Horne/Main Street/Tourism regarding small business funding
- **Terry**
  - Identify potential facilitators for the community vision planning meeting
- **Scott**
  - Follow up with Representatives Higdon and Tipton about the four budget requests
  - Check calendar availability for November 13th, 5:30pm
  - Provide information about the Downtown Park project for the legislative packet to Katherine
- **All Committee Members**
  - Review and provide feedback on the legislative packets
  - Help identify additional stakeholders for the community vision planning meeting

Thanks,  
Katherine Scott  
**Tourism Director**



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