



## Discover Boone County Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026

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Present:

Tim Beyer  
Amanda Cecil  
Matt Gentry  
Justin Hage  
Wendy McMann  
Dustin Plunkett  
Courtenay Smock  
Kevin VanHorn  
Doug Weisheit  
Allyson Gutwein (CEO)  
Katie Sheets – Board Attorney

Not Present:

Matt Wilson

Pursuant to Ind<sup>2</sup>Code § 5-14-1<sup>5</sup>-1 *et seq.*, Discover Boone County discloses the name of each appointed officer serving on the board, along with the appointing authority and board term of each appointed officer:

- 1<sup>2</sup> Tim Beyer – Boone County Commissioners appointee – Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026
- 2<sup>2</sup> Kevin VanHorn – Boone County Council appointee – Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026
- 3<sup>2</sup> Courtenay Smock – Whitestown appointee – Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026
- 4<sup>2</sup> Matt Gentry – Lebanon appointee – Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2027
- 5<sup>2</sup> Dustin Plunkett – Boone County Council appointee- Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026

The following individuals also serve on the Discover Boone County Board, along with the appointing authority and board term of each board member<sup>2</sup>

- 6<sup>2</sup> Amanda Cecil- Zionsville appointee- Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026
  - 7<sup>2</sup> Justin Hage – Zionsville appointee – Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2026
  - 8<sup>2</sup> Wendy McMann- Boone County Commissioners appointee- Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2027
  - 9<sup>2</sup> Doug Weisheit- Whitestown appointee- Jan 1, 2026, to Dec 31, 2027
  - 10<sup>2</sup> Matt Wilson- Lebanon appointee-
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### **Opening of the Meeting:**

The Discover Boone County (DBC) Board of Directors met on April 21, 2026, at the Discover Boone County building. The meeting was called to order by President Amanda Cecil at 4:51 p.m.

### **In the Matter of Public Comment:**

No public comments.

**Confirmation of New Board Member:** Matt Wilson is the Lebanon board appointment. Matt was not in attendance at this board meeting.

### **In the Matter of Consent Agenda – Director’s Report, Treasurer’s Report, and February 2026 Meeting**

**Minutes:** Matt Gentry made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the amendments. Motion was seconded by Doug Weisheit. The motion carried 9-0.

**Executive Director's Report:** Allyson Gutwein reported that March was another very solid month. The Star report shows hotel occupancy for January 66.6%, February 81.1%, and March 83%. Typically, those are the lowest months.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Wendy McMann reported that the financial reports show the balance with the auditor’s office, and it is believed to include the 8% Innkeepers Tax collection. It should be noted that these numbers for 2026 are an anomaly. Doug Weisheit made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Dustin Plunkett. The motion carried 9-0.

### **In the Matter of Old Business:**

**Attorney Update and Comments:** Katie Sheets, Board Attorney, did not have any new updates for the board.

**Airport Discussion:** Most of the board members heard the discussion regarding the airport project during the end of the Tourism Council meeting. Kevin VanHorn wanted to thank Doug Weisheit for requesting that Discover Boone County has the opportunity to display brochures and materials about Boone County at the airport. Doug Weisheit shared that people are staying at the Holiday Inn Express on 421 in Carmel. There was further discussion about the timeline of disbursing the funds. Discover Boone County will make a request to get placed on the agenda for the County Council.

### **In the Matter of New Business:**

**America 250 – Boone County Indiana Fund:** There was board discussion about the four funding requests received for America 250-related events. Doug Weisheit commented that for the courthouse decoration project that they have the south side erected by June 24 for the last wreath-laying ceremony if possible. Doug Weisheit made a motion to approve the funding requests as presented by the committee chair. Motion seconded by Matt Gentry. The motion carried 9-0.

**America 250 reception and upcoming events:** The last wreath-laying ceremony will be held on June 24, 2026, at the courthouse. A reception will be held before the ceremony at 11am at the Discover Boone County Building with light refreshments. Several state officials have expressed interest in attending, including representatives from the Attorney General's office and Congressman Jim Baird.

**Courthouse plaque of Revolutionary War Soldiers replacement:** As part of the Boone County's America 250 celebration, in partnership with the DAR, Thorntown Historical Group, and Discover Boone County, plans are underway to replace the original 1935 bronze DAR memorial located on the courthouse lawn. The new marker will replicate the original in size and design, including all 20 soldiers, and updated wording at the bottom to reflect 2026 and America's 250th anniversary, and will be completed locally by A&K in Lebanon pending funding approval. Tim Beyer made a motion to approve the funding of the Revolutionary War Soldiers Plaque for \$7,200. Motion seconded by Matt Gentry. Motion carried 9-0.

**America 250 monument creation:** Doug Weisheit shared with the board that during the wreath-laying ceremonies it has come to our attention that not all of the Revolutionary War patriots have the monument stones that were provided by the County Commissioners. Doug would like to work with DAR to get a list together to determine which patriots do not have the monument and suggested that if there are still funds left for America 250- Boone County Indiana Fund that those funds could be used to create smaller stones markers for those gravesites. This idea has been tabled for now.

**ITA Academy project- Concierge Service:** Leigh Ann Akard shared about the Boone County Concierge project that she completed to graduate from the Indiana Tourism Academy. She explained why the project was started and the intended outcome. Two properties in Whitestown have staff members who have completed the course.

**Additional new business:** Allyson shared with the board that Becky Cash, Indiana House of Representatives, presented her with an idea to host an art contest to help celebrate America 250. After much discussion, the board decided to pass on this opportunity.

Doug Weisheit shared with the board that the new social media campaign is gaining followers, especially around the wreath-laying ceremonies. He shared that ISFA 1 has been providing background music and has received incredible support. He also shared his gratitude for the work Discover Boone County put into the Indiana State Festivals Association this last year which resulted in an entire row being featured on ISFA 1.

Allyson Gutwein informed the board that at the May board meeting Jack Johnson from the Boone County 4-H Fairgrounds will be a guest speaker doing an informational presentation.

Matt Gentry made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dustin Plunkett. The motion carried 9-0. With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Leigh Ann Akard.