

7/17/2025 Marine Multigenerational Education District Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Bob Benishek - Neighborhood
Bill Miller - City Council
Kitsi Vadheim - At Large
Lisa White - Planning Commission
Dan Willenbring - City Council

Not Present:

Tim Casey - Planning Commission
Robin Brooksbank - Marine Mills Folk School
Julie McGarvie - Marine Mill Folk School
Cari McGlynn - Marine Village School
Jake White - At Large

Welcome Bob Benishek to the committee! Bob fills the Neighborhood Representative seat. Time was spent updating him on the purpose and work of the committee to date.

City Resident Survey

There was discussion about providing a few details about the school property at the beginning of the survey, particularly an explanation of the current owner (City of Marine), current occupants (Marine Village School and Marine Mills Folk School), and an explanation of the MMEDAC work.

The committee received a response from city planner Beth Richmond of HKGi regarding survey questions that will be sent to Marine residents late summer/early fall (prior to the visioning session planned for early October). With Ms. Richmond's guidance, the questions were edited as follows:

1. What currently happens at the school property?
 - Open response _____

OR

 - Multiple choice:
 - Elementary School
 - Folk School
 - Community Events and Activities
 - Public Open Green Space
 - Public Playground
 - Sports Activities (ball games, tennis, pickleball, skating, frisbee, etc.)
 - I don't know
 - Other _____

2. The current users of the school building and site are Marine Village School – a charter elementary school – and Marine Mills Folk School, a nonprofit arts education organization. Would you support additional complementary uses of the space (indoor and outdoor)?
 - Radial buttons:
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
3. The school site is zoned for dwelling (single-use, detached), government buildings and structures (including police and fire stations, public works facilities), park/playground/open space, place of worship, or school. Other uses would require a change to the zoning code. Are there any other uses, other than the current uses, that the City should consider?
 - Open response _____
4. Are there any issues with the current users and uses of the site that are of concern to you?
 - Multiple Choice:
 - Traffic
 - Noise
 - Parking
 - Lights
 - Dogs
 - Other _____
5. What factors should the City consider if a new use were to be proposed?
 - Multiple choice:
 - Tax Implications
 - Traffic
 - Noise
 - Parking
 - Zoning Change
 - Other _____
6. There are no current plans to use tax dollars for any improvements at the site. In the future, should the City and Council consider tax-funded improvements? Examples might include additional/improved parking, adding/relocating existing amenities, additional storage, physical plant improvements, or expansion of current spaces.
 - Radial buttons:
 - Yes
 - No
 - It would depend on the improvement
 - I don't know
7. The school property currently accommodates ball fields, basketball, skating rink, tennis/pickleball court, playground, school forest, and green space. Are there any new or additional uses for the outdoor space at the school that should be considered?
 - Open Response _____

8. How important is it for the City to retain public ownership over this site?
 - Radial buttons:
 - Important
 - Neutral
 - Not Important
9. How important is it to preserve the existing vegetation/natural features on the site?
 - Radial buttons:
 - Important
 - Neutral
 - Not Important

Visioning Session

The committee plans to hold an open house visioning session in early October to communicate with and gather information from all stakeholders to better understand their interests and expectations regarding the site. To that end, the committee plans to:

Create a slideshow, posters, and interactive displays that might include:

- Introduction by the Mayor
- History of the school property
- Basis for the formation of the MMEDAC Committee/Charge
- City Zoning Uses Defined
- Tax Parcel/Site Map
- Infrastructure Map
- Current Use of the School Property
- Comprehensive Plan/Survey Results
- Committee Ideas for Future Use
- Community Ideas for Future Use
- Community Concerns about Current and Future Use
- Next steps

The committee will utilize visual assets and information from presentations provided to citizens before the purchase of the school property in 2019. Numbered stations will guide stakeholders through background information before asking for their ideas and concerns via sticky notes.

Next Steps

- Bill - provide Lisa with presentation assets.
- Lisa - upload all relevant information and assets to Google Drive.
- All committee members - provide input to refine/finalize the survey.
- *Open opportunity* - draft survey introduction for committee review.
- *Open opportunity* - coordinate with city staff on the best methods to deliver the survey to stakeholders.
- *Open opportunity* - begin to organize information and assets for use at the visioning session.

- Robin - ask Suzanne about potential visioning session dates Oct 2 and Oct 4, any conflicts city newsletter for autumn will be published in September.
- Robin - ask Suzanne if any limitations on someone renting the school yard for a public event not associated with MVS or MMFS (think current lease prevents this but not sure.) Also, are there any ordinance restrictions on use of outdoor space at the school site?
- Jake - ask Scandia about multi-use rink, what allowed, how working, any issues?

Next Meeting - Thursday, August 7, 2025 - 6:00PM - Marine Town Hall

lw, 7/18/2025