

Minutes
The University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County
June 1, 2026

The regular meeting of the University of Missouri Extension Council in Platte County met in person at the Platte City branch of Mid-Continent Library.

Members Present: Scott Wilkerson, Chris Kempke, Sarah Parker, Sharon Warren, Tiffany Burris, Bobby McGee, Danielle McGee

Members Absent: Cierra Halbirt, James DePriest, Joe Vanover, Justin Parker, Matt Burris

Staff Present: Marilyn Whitacre, Justin Strickland, Dylan Newman, Lindsay Tarasovic, Elena Stephonson
Emily Wills

Master Gardener: Carolyn Vellar

Minutes:

The meeting minutes from the May meeting had a motion to approve by; seconded by Scott. Council approved report.

Treasurer's Report:

That will be included in July's meeting. Scott motioned to approve report; Tiffany seconded. Council approved report.

Carry Over Business and New Business:

- Carolyn noted the Master Gardeners doesn't have any activity on the financial report. Would like to include that information in report as well.
- James DePriest has not attended 3 consecutive meetings. Bobby moved to give 15 days post receipt of written communication to James (Marilyn following up). If no response after 15 days of written communication, can pursue replacement or removal of membership.
- Scott requested to wait until Daniel Manning was able to attend and introduce himself to the Council prior to moving forward with the appointment to the Council, ensuring he is present at the July meeting for introduction and welcome. Council agreed.
- There is an open position for Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health through MU Extension; a Job description was handed out
- Lindsay (and staff) will prepare a draft budget and funding request for FY27, including program commitments and projected shortfalls, for Council review at the next meeting.
 - Lindsay noted that Platte County has historically approved only \$30,000 in funding and emphasized the need for early submission of detailed budget requests by September 1st.
- The council also discussed potential programming ideas including first responder support services and Missouri Good Neighbor Week community service activities.
 - Lindsay will reach out to Extension contacts regarding 1st responder/EMS/fire programming and the possibility of bringing relevant state-level resources to Platte County, and report back to the Council.
- All Council members are requested to submit programming ideas for upcoming year to staff for consideration in the FY27 budget and program planning.

- All Council members are requested to suggest local organizations or opportunities for MU Extension Day of Service in Platte County and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- All Council members: Consider and provide input on Missouri Good Neighbor Weekday of Service project ideas.

Staff Reports and Regional Updates

4-H Project:

- Justin and Dylan reported on recent 4-H activities including School Day at K which attracted over 200 students including many from Platte County, and upcoming summer programming with Platte County Parks and Rec at English Landing on July 16th and 30th. Justin getting a flyer to Marilyn to post for these events.
- Dylan attended an event at Accellus, and noted positive conversations with family attendees, especially home school families.
 - As requested by Council, Dylan will reach out to Accellus administrative contact within the current week to schedule a face-to-face meeting to discuss forming a partnership between Platte County 4-H and Accellus, and report back to the Council on the outcome.
- The council discussed providing discounted Missouri State Fair tickets to families, with Dylan and Justin agreeing to explore options through the 4-H Foundation and allocate \$500 from the 4-H budget plus an additional \$500 from general funds for marketing costs.
 - The council agreed to explore options for families whose members advance to the State Fair, with Dylan and Justin suggesting they consult with the Missouri 4-H Foundation about existing scholarship opportunities. The motion was approved with the stipulation that current families making it to the State Fair should have the option to receive tickets for their families.
 - Sharon proposed allocating \$500 from the 4-H budget and \$500 from the general account for tickets and marketing costs.
- Dylan requested council member assistance with water sales during the fair, particularly on Saturday from 3:30-9:30 PM, and reported that water would be donated by ARCO Construction.
 - Dylan will send the 4-H water sales volunteer sign-up link to Marilyn (and/or Sarah) for distribution to Council and 4-H members, and confirm staff coverage schedule for the fair, especially for Saturday shifts.
- Dylan will update and share the 4-H Senior Scholarship application form, including the new \$2,000 amount, and circulate to relevant parties for review.
- Dylan will follow up with Trinity Holland (or appropriate contact) regarding the updated 4-H Senior Scholarship amount and ensure the correct information is included in the application form.
- Dylan and Justin will explore options for acquiring 4-H promotional "swag" (e.g., fans, items from 4-H online store) for the fair booth, considering budget and timing, and report back to Council.
- Justin and Dylan will investigate the possibility and process for obtaining Missouri 4-H Foundation grants/scholarships for State Fair tickets for qualifying 4-H families, and report findings to the Council by the July meeting.
- Justin and Dylan will collaborate to determine the number of discounted State Fair tickets needed, confirm availability of tickets and transportation options, and present a plan for distribution (including for families with projects at the State Fair) at the July meeting.

Master Gardeners:

Master Gardeners provided updates on their community garden, native plant installations at the Kansas City North Community Center, and collaboration with 4-H at Mimi's Garden.

- o Carolyn will begin sending detailed monthly Master Gardener activity reports to Marilyn and the Council for distribution and review.
 - o Scott provided an update on the Kansas City Northern Railroad wildflower garden installation, noting that recent flooding damaged much of the work completed over the weekend.
 - o Potential volunteer activities may be requested at the wildflower garden at the KC Northern Railroad
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- o Elena is working with Main Street Parkville Association to solidify a budget for the mosaic installation at Pocket Park, and report back to the Council at the next meeting.
 - o Elena is applying for the Missouri Creative Activation Grant to support creative placemaking in downtown Parkville and update the Council on the outcome.
 - o Elena will send information on recommended funding sources (e.g., art council funding) for the artist residency and arts programming at Dorothy Day cabin to the Council for review.

Scott moved to adjourn at 7:32, Sharon seconded. The next meeting is July 6, 2026, at 6 pm via zoom.