



Ad Hoc West Branch Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026
2pmCDT Virtual meeting on MS Teams

Attendees: Chairman Bruce Barnhart, Karen Suchomel, Gene Anderson, Charlie Becker, Mundi McCarty, President & CEO

The meeting was called to order at 2:00pmCDT.

Barnhart called the first meeting to order.

Barnhart presented the committee's focus: 1. Discuss the Foundation's properties, totaling 2.2 acres, at 308 and 312 W Main St., West Branch, otherwise known as the Hoover-Ball Courts. 2. Strengthen communication with the City of West Branch.

Discussion on item 1. included McCarty's summary of the current ideal status of the Hoover-Ball National Championships: the tournament continues under the City of WB's Rec Department at the National Park Service property, Village Green. Alternate locations both on city and school district property could be available should NPS deny use of their space in the future; other area non-profit groups could coordinate the tournament should the City not be able to continue it in the future. Suchomel suggested that the lots be sold. Anderson confirmed a covenant could be added to the sale of the lots that it remain residential to continue to protect the fact that one of the lots shares a property line with the NPS. Becker moved to sell the two properties with a covenant requiring the property to remain as residential. Anderson seconded; all approved unanimously.

Discussion included possible sale prices; selling the lots separately or together; and the use of any sale proceeds. Anderson moved to amend the motion to sell the two properties with a covenant requiring the property to remain as residential with the proceeds to benefit the Timeless Values campaign to renovate the presidential museum; Becker seconded; all approved unanimously.

Barnhart opened the discussion for item 2: strengthening communications with the City of West Branch noting that there is currently not an issue and a desire to be sure that continues. Suchomel noted that in past concerns between the Foundation and the city, a routine meeting between a local trustee and the city made a positive impact. Ideas for further engagement included: invitations to Foundation member events; an invitation, extending to the county supervisors and administrators, legislators for Cedar, Johnson and perhaps other contiguous counties would be ideal for a museum reopening event; McCarty confirmed this could be tied to the West Branch community soft opening event of the museum. McCarty to meet with Mayor Laughlin

to identify other meaningful options for sharing the work of the Foundation including requesting to present with local trustees at 1-2 council meetings per year; request a meeting with new council members, etc.

Other business included opportunities with area businesses from Nordex to Tidewater and McCarty to request an opportunity to meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mundi McCarty, President & CEO