

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2025

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Pope declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gordon and Commissioner Mordhorst were present.

2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):

None.

3. AGENDA: **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**

**ALL VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

4. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER GORDON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF March 18, 2025**

**ALL VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

5. AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT PROPOSAL

Aleisha Preston, Academia Early Learning Center, went over a google slides presentation for the Board and is requesting \$30,000 from the Business Development Grant Fund. The presentation went over their background information, who and what the learning center is, their staff, why they are requesting these funds and what they plan to use them for, the needs in the community, where the location will be, the details of the after-school program, budget highlights and what the next steps will be should the Board approve their funding request. When talking about the need in the Polk County community for child care, she stated that only 17% of students have access to child care and anything less than 33% is considered a "desert." Commissioner Pope asked if that 17% includes Head start programs and Ms. Preston stated that yes, it does. Commissioner Pope asked if this service will be available if school is closed and Ms. Preston stated that as long as they have the staffing for it, they will open up all day for those children. Commissioner Pope asked her to talk about what the rates will be and Ms. Preston answered his question. Commissioner Pope stated that he feels like this sound like an amazing program and asked if she has any thoughts or plans for future expansion and Ms. Preston stated that they would like to expand to Monmouth/Independence at some point because the need is high. Commissioner Mordhorst asked if there was room for expansion in this location and Ms. Preston stated that 25 is the max due to the size of the building. Commissioner Gordon praised her for her hard work on this as well. Commissioner Gordon asked what she was doing to make sure people know that they are just using the location of a church building but that they are not affiliated with the church and Ms. Preston answered his question. Brent DeMoe, Polk County FCO Director, shared some data from the Oregon Market Study for fulltime childcare costs. Commissioner Pope asked when they plan to open if they gave her a yes today and Ms. Preston stated that their goal is to open by June 1, 2025.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THEIR FUNDING REQUEST OF \$30,000 FROM THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND.**

**ALL VOTED YES.
MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.**

6. NON-LISTED ITEMS - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the
below identified non-listed items.)
None.

Commissioner Pope adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: April 1, 2025