



**Super
Town of
Albion
Revitalization
Team**

www.albionstarteam.org

A member of OCRA's Downtown Affiliate Network,
associated with Indiana Main Street

Wednesday, February 26, 2026

Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes prepared and submitted by Lori Gagen

Attendees: Lori Gagen, Kelly Spear, Everett Newman, Helen Newman, Kayla Traylor

Call to Order

The Albion STAR Team meeting was called to order by President Lori Gagen at 5:30 p.m. at the NCPL.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January meeting were shared in print for review. With no changes noted, Kelly made a motion to adopt, seconded by Helen, and motion passed unanimously.

Financial Statements/Information

Lori provided a financial statement reflecting activity in January and matching the bank statement. The ending funds balance for January 31, 2026 is \$11,344.61, of which \$6,799.10 is unrestricted. The report was filed. Lori also noted that the Gazebo Fund will be removed from future reports, as it has a zero balance. She also reported that she just transferred the PayPal balance to checking. It reflected \$92.70 in Fall Celebration booths income, minus \$3.80 merchant fees and \$12 for Wix marketing email upgrade. This left a balance of \$76.90 transferred to General Funds. This will show up on the February financial report. Lori will ask Mary Ann to collaborate to re-set her access to PayPal.

Volunteer Hours

Lori passed around sheets to collect volunteer hours and directors present recorded their time.

Organization Committee

Lori reported that the required Indiana Gateway report concerning \$5,000 contributed by the Town of Albion is ready to be filed (not able to until April 1.) She noted of the \$5,000 from Town of Albion last year, there was a balance of \$1,529.82 unspent. This will need to be taken into consideration if the town is asked for a contribution this year, to be discussed at the Annual Meeting in March, when more members are present.

Project Design Committee

New committee chair Kayla Traylor provided several updates:

- Kayla met with Brad Ebey concerning property improvements at El Mariachi. Brad indicated he will be power washing the wall and removing the old letterboard sign. He will allow the STAR Team to manage a mural installation there if desired.

- Kayla has had an initial conversation with CN art teacher Abby Mault. She and her students would be interested in installing a mural there. Kayla shared some possible inspiration, including something evoking Chain O' Lakes State Park. America 250 was also noted. Members think the artists should have some say in what inspires them to volunteer their time. Newmans may have some paint available and Lori noted sometimes Doc's Hardware also has older paint they might donate. No action was taken. Members present felt a budget of \$1,000 for a new mural would be sufficient. Lori noted this for budget discussions in March.
- Kayla has been researching lots of beautification ideas. After some discussion, members suggested narrowing down to these areas to limit restrictions likely in other areas:
 - Décor to add to Town's large planters (stakes, for example)
 - Barrel planters at the Pocket Park and in Celebration Station – for spring/seasonal decorations that can be re-used
 - Pocket Park in general – for any kinds of enhancements
 - Two concrete flat "pillar" surfaces at the fountain – for added planters/décor
 - Landscape at the fountain; limited "in-ground" installations – requires county permission to avoid puncturing any landscape water lines
 - Gazebo – this is a priority project – to decorate for America 250
- Helen shared information about a bunting Newmans have purchased for the balcony railing at their building and said she can share the order details if the STAR Team wants to coordinate and offer to other local businesses to purchase some as well. Lori asked her to share that information for consideration.
- Kayla will put a more detailed proposal and associated costs together for review in March/April

Promotion Committee

Mary Ann was absent. Lori noted that rack cards are on hand, ready for distribution. Kayla provided updates on her work with the Chain O' Lakes Car Show committee to expand the Summer Kickoff:

- Kayla met with Greg Snyder and Randy Gunder and found consensus on opportunities to expand.
- Kayla also spoke with Eric Custer; Eric will manage all related stage/electricity needs. After some discussion, members advised to set the stage at the west end of W Main and south end of N York and to work with Eric to finalize those plans with a GIS map/diagram to work from. They also asked that Eric confirm what he will manage in terms of Special Event application(s) and what the STAR Team needs to manage.
- The Car Show committee is working to see if the American Legion can provide food.
- Kayla is asking 2 Amigos if they can provide food.
- Kayla asked for approval to hire Rekt for \$2,500. She was asked to come back with their contract and information concerning what happens in the event of a weather cancellation. She said her colleagues discussed moving all activities to Saturday, May 30 in the event of rain, but we want to know the contracted details for the band, since \$2,500 is a large expense. Lori advised Kayla the committee can discuss and vote by email.
- The committee leaned towards artisan vendors vs. flea market/garage sale, concerned that timing right after town cleanup might encourage junky stuff. Lori will help with vendor registrations and wants to see the street diagram before starting to know how many spots we have to fill.
- The committee looks to confirm with Mary Ann and Steve Hook if they are "in" for Albionopoly as it was held in 2025, which those present would like to see return. Lori advised if so, she will order a nicer vinyl sponsor banner to display at more events (as was intended last year, but did not happen.)
- The Car Show will be from 5-8 p.m. Live music (if approved) will be from 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- After some discussion around t-shirts, no action was taken. Lori reminded that we do have STAR Team vests for volunteer to wear. Some felt if we do have or offer t-shirts, perhaps they should be America 250 themed.
- Kayla has talked with David Pearson (sp?), advisor for CN's National Honor Society, and is working to recruit high school student volunteers to help.

- Kayla believes a Bounce House will cost about \$350. Lori asked her to include those details in the diagram so more discussions can be had to finalize plans.

Lori reported she submitted a grant request to Visit Noble County and believes it was for \$1,500 for America 250 but could not immediately confirm.

She also shared that she will have a brief meeting next week with Jamie Howard and Kim Baumgartner at CNSC to discuss transitioning Christmas in the Village tasks.

Lori tabled any further event discussions.

Old Business

Gazebo Dedication: Lori noted that Mary Ann does not have any costs pulled together for the plaque. During the meeting, some feedback from members indicated a budget of \$500 should be ample.

100 S Orange Mural: Lori shared a text reply from Darlene Depew, the 100 S Orange muralist, stating that she could salvage the mural in pieces to create separate boards. Her estimate is \$2,000 per picture and there are nine = \$18,000. She would love to make this work. The initial reaction of members present was that the cost is too much at this time. Lori tabled any further discussion.

New Business

Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting is set for March 25 at the library, from 5-7 p.m. Lori noted that anyone interested in encouraged to attend. Current director terms will end this operating year, based on initial three-year terms set when the STAR Team took over the Courthouse Square Preservation Society. She will work on a 2025 wrap-up presentation and asked Kayla to be prepared to share her ideas and plans for 2026 events.

Bylaws: Lori is recommending consideration of an amendment to reduce the number of members required to be directors, which is now set at eleven. No action was taken.

Budget: Lori shared some documentation of 2025 budget and actual numbers and has prepared a worksheet for 2026. She will prepare an initial budget proposal for review in March.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.