



Keep Carter County Beautiful Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 13, 2022

Meeting held via Zoom

Board Members Present: Ed Jordan, Mike Simerly, Don Hlavaty, Ginger Holdren, Doug Theobald, Ross Garland, Mike Mains, Simon Maddox, and Ed Basconi

Guests Present: Melinda Maddox, Lisa Vezzosi, Nicholas Miller, Seth Hice

Call to Order: Ed Jordan opened the meeting at 12:03pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Agenda: Board approved unanimously.

Opening Prayer: Don Hlavaty

Pledge of Allegiance: Doug Theobald

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting on November 11, 2021, were Board approved unanimously.

KCCB Treasurer Report: Mike Simerly

Account balance as of December 31, 2021, was \$6,074.94. Mike Simerly balanced the bank statement. Activity included expense withdrawals of \$10.96 for mail chimp, \$50.00 for Christmas parade entry fee, \$1045.00 for grabbers, \$32.94 for banking fees, \$19 for Lora's party, and \$27.44 for Chamber QuickBooks.

Deposits included \$100 for license plates bought by the Chamber to sell, \$173.73 for PayPal transfer in a charity donation was deposited. We left \$20.00 in the PayPal account to keep it active. We anticipate three city/county payments of \$1,250 to be deposited on 12/31/21, 3/31/22, and 6/30/22 into our account.

Because the city/county finances run from July-June, it was suggested by Ed Jordan that KCCB financial records match their books in the same manner. Mike Simerly made a motion to approve the new format, seconded by Don Hlavaty, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ed Basconi questioned how this year's tree purchases will be made? Mike Simerly indicated KCCB has the ability to pay by check or with debit card. However, there is probably a limit of \$50 without a second approval.

Public Comments: Melinda Maddox that the 501C status was not showing up yet.

Trash Trout Trap & Setup Location Update: Mike Simerly indicated there was no activity yet. A message for more information was sent to Andy Hill with no response as of yet.

Wayfinding Signage and TDOT Stickers Update: Ross Garland has the 1500 new stickers now, which include our website and TDOT as the sponsor. There are forty large stickers for trashcans. He can distribute as needed. The wayfinding signage proof went back and forth, but the final approval by Ross was made to create them, and we are awaiting delivery. The County Road Department will assist with the posting of the signage.

Donation of Trees Update: An attached quote from Mills Greenhouse and Landscape was distributed with the agenda. Mike Mains expressed concern with the pricing because the quote for a one-time mulch, spraying, and mowing. Throughout the summer, it will need multiple mowing at \$350 each time. The cost is based on workforce and volume, but will include multiple areas, and the new trees that are planted. Mike Mains asked what the planting plan was for 2022. Ed Basconi indicated that the planting of new trees should not place a burden on the city, or Danny Hilbert's crew. Because we do not know specifically where the city funding is allocated, contacting Danny for specifics will be necessary, which Mike Mains will do. Mike Simerly stated that he would discuss at the next City Board meeting and report back.

Ed Jordan indicated KCCB needs someone to spearhead this project with the city. Additionally, our budget has \$5,500 for beautification as a line item. KCCB could allocate \$720 toward the weed control spray. Don made a motion to allocate \$720 toward the contract utilizing KCCB funds from the Beautification line item. The motion was seconded by Simon, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Mike Mains indicated his city budget could save KCCB \$745 for mulch by using his resources and utilizing community volunteers to spread the mulch in our KCCB areas. Don indicated he could spread mulch in his designated plots if Mike M provided the mulch.

Leaving the only item for mowing, Ed Basconi stated that he will set up a meeting with Mr. Hannon at Mills Greenhouse regarding details for a mowing schedule.

Grant Progress Report: Ginger stated that she attended a virtual seminar on preparing a grant. The deadline for a grant submission is 1/22/2022. The process is extremely specific, and has multiple areas of focus, such as waterways, cigarette trash, tree planting, etc. She needs a specific project to complete the application process. Ginger asked Jillian Reese about the cigarette project but had received no response yet. There had been two grants previously requested for cigarette collection bins, and one for collection of butts.

Ginger indicated there is \$5,000 grant for tree planting projects. She requested specifics on volunteers because there are areas if special groups would be utilized, such as LGBTQ or disabled veterans. She needs to specify who, what, where, the plan, etc. Ed Jordan indicated he would give her the master plan for the trees project. Our plan uses common volunteers to plant

new trees over multiple years. Mr. Hannon at Mills Greenhouse could provide specific tree types that could be ordered and details of soil, etc. Up to ten types of trees can be requested, but no shrubs could be used by the grant.

Don asked regarding the use of donated trees to be included in the grant funding or if monies could be used for other item, like flowers, at the war memorial. Ginger said the funding was specifically only for tree planting. She also noted that public requests for tree memorials cannot be added to the grant.

Ginger stated the grant is named UPS grant. We could ask the local UPS store owner for input. She also could ask the UPS store owner for volunteer help.

Nomination of Officers: Ed Jordan indicated that he was transitioning from Chairman to a Board member. He asked for nominations and a vote for each of the following officers:

Chairperson: Ross Garland nominated Don Hlavaty. The motion was approved unanimously.

Vice Chair: Ed Basconi nominated Ross Garland. The motion was approved unanimously.

Secretary: Mike Simerly nominated Lisa Vezzosi. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Don nominated Mike Simerly. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ed Jordan asked Don for comment on his new role. Don stated it was going to be a tough act to follow with Ed Jordan. He will give it his best effort and hopes the group will be successful. He will appreciate a group effort and advice given to him. He indicated that we should work together to make Carter County and Elizabethton great. He would like to focus on trash and beautification.

Ed Jordan stated he would help Don with transition. He gave thanks to the group support. He indicated that KCCB has created awareness into a reality and should work to help a cleaner environment. He feels turnover is good and applauded the group for their service. He will remain a member of the Board.

Ross indicated he will continue to work hard in his role as Vice Chair for Don and the group. He also indicated that that he will work closely with Joy at the Chamber of Commerce office.

Lisa indicated she would support the group in her role as Secretary and asked the group to bear with her as she learned to fill Lora's role.

Ed Basconi thanked Ed Jordan for his contributions to awareness for the community. He indicated that his vision set in motion for the public to be aware of the beauty of our area. He also encouraged the public to enjoy the trees, trails, parks, etc.

Monthly Business Sponsor Events: Ed Jordan suggested that we work with groups to accept projects on a monthly basis. For example, Carter County Bank allotted \$1,500 for three events in April including one for litter pick-up, one for recycle project, and the last for a beautification project.

On January 29th, we have the Milligan Highway Clean-up starting at 10:00am. Don will be a flyer out and post on the website.

The Seed & Pollinator event is coming up and Ed Jordan will collaborate with Don and reach out on specifics.

Other Spring 2022 events will include Arbor Day, the tree planting event, and tire removal on Blevins Road. The tire project will require additional equipment. Ed Jordan stated he has a contact with T&G Wrecker.

Mike Mains stated he had thirty-two events to roll out. He will forward a list. It includes a trash pick-up along the Tweetsie Trail area on June 11th.

Social Media/Website & Computer Update: No further update on the newsletter for Mailchimp.

Open Discussion: Lisa Vezzosi will contact Seth Hice to get the recording link of today's meeting.

Next KCCB Board Meeting: The next meeting will be held on February 17th at noon. The agenda should include a vote on the Chamber of Commerce contract.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:28pm.