



## Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

Chamber Conference Room, 615 W. Elk Avenue, Elizabethton & Zoom

June 23, 2022, at Noon

**Board Members Present:** Don Hlavaty, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Doug Theobald, Ed Basconi, Mike Mains, Mike Simerly, Ross Garland

**Board Members Absent:** Ginger Holdren, Simon Maddock

**Guest Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:01pm. A quorum was present. Don started the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation at the meetings and events. The event for litter clean up of highway 321 was success but we could not finish it all.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Board approved the agenda. We will move agenda items needing approvals to earlier so approvals can be made in the first hour.

**Prayer:** Mike Simerly gave the prayer.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lisa Vezzosi led the pledge.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to **approve the minutes from April 21, 2022, and May 19, 2022**, meetings was made by Mike Simerly, seconded by Mike Mains, and **Board approved**.

**KCCB Treasurer Report:** Mike Simerly

- The bank statement closed 5/31/2022 with a balance of \$8,893.01. This included no additional revenue. It included the expenses of \$10.87 for the Mail Chimp account payable to Don Hlavaty. Don reported this expense going forward will be automatically taken from the debit card. Other expenses were \$300.00 for the yard signs purchase, \$138.56 for the seed purchases by Ed Basconi, \$99.11 for the U-Haul truck from the debit card, and \$30.32 for gas paid by Don. **A motion was made to pay Don \$40.19 for those expenses** by Ed Jordan, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, **Board approved**.
- We have pending payments due for which we are awaiting the invoices. There will be a check for Hannon's Landscaping for the tree purchases totaling \$3,240.00, and \$720.00 for the tree maintenance. We are also awaiting invoice for \$250.00 that represents our portion of the Trout Trash Trap. Multiple calls were made to invoice us prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- It was announced Don and Mike Simerly, that the City of Elizabethton approved our \$5,000 requests for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, which will be paid quarterly in payments of \$1,250 starting in July.
- Ross reported the request to Carter County is due to be approved for \$5,000 in next month's Budget Committee meeting.

- Don reported that Microsoft Benevity account has been approved and set up for direct deposit to our bank account. Simon & Melinda Maddock submit hours of participation to our organization which results in \$25.00 per hour payment. This includes meetings and events. In addition, an anonymous donor contributed \$2,000, which has been matched by Microsoft. The donor asked that these funds be used to fund new trash cans for Elizabethton Parks & Recreation, as a KCCB donation. A nameplate will be added to the cans in the name of KCCB. Melinda as the Microsoft representative, and Mike Mains are handling those details. So far, the Microsoft account has a pending deposit of \$4,125 to be made in June.
- Don asked the group to consider having KCCB match the \$2,000 Microsoft contribution toward the trash can purchase, as well. Discussion regarding the cans was made. Mike Mains reported the cans were worn out and they need replacement in several park areas. His budget has been used for other necessary projects. Mike Simerly said he could mention the KCCB donation at the July 14 City Council meeting. **Don made the motion to make a \$2,000 match donation toward the city trash can project**, seconded by Mike Simerly, and **Board approved**. Lisa asked Mike Simerly to make the payment prior to the June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year close for KCCB.

**2022-2023 Budget Considerations:** Don Hlavaty

- Because we know the local government contribution for next year, our next fiscal year will have about \$18,000 in funding.
- Don asked for ideas including trees. A few events scheduled this year collided with other Tri-City events, so there was low participation. Don asked for input from the Board members for events and budget needs for them.
- Ed Jordan asked to devote most of the August meeting to focus on the budget. Everyone should come prepared to discuss events and needs for KCCB.
- Buffalo Creek Trout Trash Trap signage needs to be designed. There has been no input from Trouts Unlimited except they want their logo on the new signage. Mike Mains stated he was contacted, and he will address once he returns from vacation. A signage draft needs to be made and presented to the Board. One complaint was made regarding the cutting down of trees near the trash trout equipment. Mike Mains stated the smaller tree damage was due to the local beavers, not people.

**Public Comments:** No comments were made.

**Next Board Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, July 21, 2022, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

**New Business:**

- Don stated there is a new owner for the property west of Williams Avenue on W. Elk Avenue who has yet to mow the grass in the median where we planted trees. Mike Simerly reported the city code enforcement person is aware, and the Elizabethton City Council is

looking at changing ordinance laws to maintain properties. He reported the city could mow it, but they cannot be reimbursed for the expense, even with a lien on the property until the ordinance law is changed. Don stated that he would like to attend the next City Council meeting and discuss under the Public Comment section. Don would also like to discuss other city areas of dumping and litter, like the public space behind Jiggy Ray's restaurant. Don also was asking that KCCB schedule a one-time annual event to clean up the Tweetsie Trail trees and plots each Spring.

- Discussion regarding the trees we planted along the Tweetsie Trail was made. Ownership of the right-of-way space was discussed. Mike Mains stated trees were planted within the 15-foot right-of-way owned by Johnson City. Ed Jordan stated that while Johnson City owns the land, the agreement was Elizabethton will maintain it. The city has relied on the property owners to mow a portion of the median, while Elizabethton mows the street side of the Tweetsie Trail. Johnson City only maintains the actual trail bed. It was suggested that this issue also be brought up at the Elizabethton City Council meeting.
- Ross mentioned there is a new principal at the Happy Valley High School. Don was asked to meet with him and discuss KCCB events. Ross also stated there was no news on the wayfinding signage placement yet.
- Don reported on new business partners meeting. He met with the Johnson City Rotary Club and the Northeast Community Credit Union group. He asked them for volunteers to participate in our events. He also met with Dustin Hensley, librarian at Elizabethton High School, for student volunteers. Don stated the students could learn a lot from our group and its activities. Don also met with Mike Fraley regarding new goals for county wide litter enforcement needs. Don was emailed by Drug Prevention office for opportunities for their members to participate in our event

**City of Elizabethton/Carter County Recycle Centers:** Don Hlavaty

- Don wanted a discussion on the status and resolution of the closed recycle centers in Elizabethton. Mike Simerly reported the city has recycle locations and the county uses the bins for recycling. Benny has not employed enough drivers to pick up and empty the existing bins. The lack of employees is the cause of the recycle center closures. Therefore, Danny locked the recycle center gates so residents would not dump. Mike suggested that Benny remove all the bins to avoid the dumping behind the gates. Ross stated he would contact Benny regarding the hiring of more drivers. It was mentioned that the main recycle center is still open and available to residents. Johnson City recycle centers are also available, but there has been push-back from people there about Carter County residents using it.

**Website Changes:** Don Hlavaty

- Don reported KCCB is paying \$80/year for software on the website, which is not needed if we use the Microsoft 365 products. He stated that our Microsoft 365 affiliation allows us to have 10 licenses to utilize their products. Therefore, we are not obliged to use the Chamber of Commerce software for Zoom meetings. The Microsoft product is called Teams. The 10 licenses allow all the Board members to use the Microsoft products under the KCCB account for email, as well as all the Microsoft software products. Don can set up each member with

an KCCB email account that links to your own email account. Don will set those up for everyone.

**Grant Submissions:** Ginger Holdren  
Ginger was absent for the meeting.

**KCCB Do Not Litter Signage:** Don Hlavaty  
Don placed a new *KCCB Do Not Litter* sign near the intersection of Hwy 321 and Milligan Hwy. There are still more in stock to use.

**Parks & Recreation Events:** Mike Mains

- Mike Mains gave KCCB use of a booth at the Elizabethton Bluegrass Jams Festival. Don, Mary, and Lisa manned the booth . We distributed Parks & Recreation schedules, as well as a variety of the existing KCCB swag. This included children’s books, activities books, gardening gloves, stickers, pencils, key chains, etc. It was a great success. We also assisted Mike’s crew with litter clean up afterward.
- Mike Mains asked if we could do this again for the 7/2/2022 event. It will be the city’s fireworks event for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He will again set up their tent booth. Mike asked that we handout event information. We can also bring KCCB giveaways, as well. **Don made the motion to participate in the 7/2/2022 Elizabethton event**, seconded by Lisa, and the **Board approved**.
- Discussion included having the recycle bins put out at events. KCCB will handle distribution and collection of recycles afterward. Mike Mains will prepare a task list for KCCB to handle.

**Event Give Aways:** Lisa Vezzosi

- Lisa reported there are about 200 car trash bags designated to give away at the Covered Bridge Days in September. We also have key chains and an assortment of miscellaneous items. We will contact *Keep Tennessee Beautiful* to see if there is anything else they can send us.
- We have previously been given 75 safety vests. A suggestion was made to have them silk screened on the back with KCCB Volunteer. Lisa showed the group an example of the design. Ed Basconi stated the mountain design should be removed and just use the words. **Lisa made the motion to have the vests silk screened by Doe Valley Printing** for a cost of less than \$200.00. The motion was seconded by Ed Jordan, and the **Board approved**.
- Lisa suggested we make up 2023 calendars for distribution at our September event. She showed the group an example with a picture of Roan Mountain overlooking Watauga Lake with rhododendrons . Ed Basconi suggested we have a children’s contest for the artwork. Since the event is in September, there would be insufficient time to have a contest and print them up prior to the Covered Bridge Days. We could consider the contest for the next calendar. No decision was made.

**Landscaping Plots at Sycamore Shoals and Mary Patton Hwy:** Don Hlavaty

- Don reported the Sycamore Shoals plot has a lot of dead plants, but the daylilies have overtaken the plot and it is difficult to maintain weeding. Maintenance of this plot has become burdensome, and we may need to abandon this area. The Mary Patton plot is doing well, and Happy Valley Ford has been cleaning up their building site, which helps overall.
- Ed Basconi reported the seed planting areas are doing well and flowers are coming up.

**Upcoming Events:** Don Hlavaty

- The July 16<sup>th</sup> tire clean up on Blevins Road is to be cancelled due to the vegetation growth and river hazards. This event will need to be scheduled in the winter months.
- On July 16<sup>th</sup>, KCCB will conduct a litter clean up on Blevins Road, but it will not include the tire removal project.
- Don commented that if new events in 2022-2023 need to be funded, it needs to be put in our next budget.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21pm.

**Submitted by:** Lisa Vezzosi, Secretary