



Keep Carter County Beautiful (KCCB) Board Meeting Minutes

Chamber Conference Room, 615 W. Elk Avenue, Elizabethton & Zoom
May 25, 2023, at Noon

Board Members Present: Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Mike Mains, Mike Simerly

Board Members Absent: Ross Garland, Simon Maddock, Melinda Maddock

Guests Present: Mary Ellen Hlavaty

Call to Order: Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:05pm. A quorum was present.

Opening Prayer: Ed Basconi

Pledge of Allegiance: Don Hlavaty

Approval of the Agenda: A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Mains, seconded by Ed Basconi, and the **Board approved**.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from March 16, 2023, made by Lisa Vezzosi and seconded by Ed Basconi, the **Board approved**.

Public Comments: No comments were made.

Next Board Meeting:

The next Board meeting will be on Thursday, June 29, 2023, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

KCCB Treasurer Report:

- We have \$7,729.88 in our checking account as of 4/30/2023. There is one outstanding check for \$1,600 to Hannon Howard that has not yet been cashed. We received our last City funding check for \$1,250, and a credit of \$7.52 that was refunded for tax taken in error. We had expenses of \$94.64 for wayfinding supplies.
- Mike Simerly reported that KCCB would be getting its fiscal year 2023-2024 funding requested from the City of Elizabethton for \$7,500. The final approval would come in the City Council June meeting. That funding would begin July 1st.
- Patty Woodby reported that the Carter County funding requests for all non-profits were going to be denied due to lack of funding. She stated that Carter County raises for employees and other county projects forced that decision, and most likely the final decision vote would be made in their June County meeting. She also indicated that Carter County residents would probably have a property tax increase and possibility of a wheel tax. The wheel tax proposal would require voter approval on the ballot this Fall.

- Don reminded the group that litter/dumping fines were part of the General Fund, but at the mayor's discretion, not the County Board. However, allocation of funding for enforcement or non-profits like ours would place the mayor in a hard position with the County Board.
- Don indicated that residents with less than \$28,000 of income could get a property tax exemption, so the increase would most not likely affect them.
- Ed Jordan commented the funding for us is in free labor to the County. Therefore, the increase in the city funding will still leave us with funding for our next fiscal year.
- Lisa reported that the KCCB tax exemption forms will automatically be mailed to us in June, as reported by Tennessee Tax Revenue Board. We will need to file a form to any of the businesses we deal with going forward starting July 1st.

Completed May Projects:

- The wildflower project resulted in eleven (11) plots planted within the city. Ed Basconi reported the plot near Harvest Baptist Church were already sprouting with seeds from last year. The Dixon plot has good soil, and any rocks could be taken by anyone if they want them. Ed says there were a lot of maple trees in the plot along the Linear Trail plot. Overall, the planting was a huge success although there were few who participated. Ed reported we planted over 40,000 seeds.
- Don reported that Kingsport started their own wildflower plot project and partnered with all the elementary schools, which included a contest. The city provided the seeds to the school.
- Hannon Howard completed the job of maintaining the trees by spraying the trees and mulching. Ed Basconi reported that he told Hannon that all the redbud trees planted did not survive and needed to be replaced. Don also reported that trees planted years ago behind Big John's store were weedy and some are dead. He stated the lawn was also not being mowed. Plots behind Dino's and along the Police Impound lot are also weedy and not mowed. Mike Mains indicated that those two areas were a project by Main Street Elizabethton and not KCCB. Don indicated that he would speak to Hannon about maintaining those two areas.
- Don reported that we partnered with Will Miller from the County Stormwater Management to clean up The Blue Hole area. The group got about 30 bags of litter, tires, and a TV. Will Miller stated he could issue litter tickets in the Cherokee Park area for privately owned land, and stated there were several residents that would be getting tickets. Will has five (5) more events planned for 2023. Don told Will to contact KCCB to assist and gave him 2 vests and grabbers to assist with litter clean up. Ed Jordan stated that KCCB did a clean up of that area about 3 years ago and it was much better this time. Ed took the TV to the Johnson City Recycle Center for e-waste. Ed Basconi reported that awareness of the cleanups is helping with the solution. Don agreed because KCCB is getting more participation with reporting litter areas, which he offered those reporting to contact their friends and neighbors to help KCCB in those reported areas.

School Project Proposals:

Ed Basconi stated there was no new activity and would resume in the next school year this Fall.

Wayfinding Signage Events:

- Ross could not attend the meeting today but emailed the Board members with a few proposals. He chose June 17th or June 24th. Ross suggested placing a map sign along the Tweetsie Trail near Milligan Depot which is at the quarry and has a pavilion there with other signage. He said there were possibly other Tweetsie Trail sites for the map signs. Another site is at Lyons Field parking lot.
- Ross also reported that Roger Colbaugh has stepped down at Carter County Road Superintendent. Shannon Birchette has been named his interim.
- Ross reported the request for “do not litter” type signs on Taylor Road could be fulfilled with a couple double sided signs that he has with our logo. He has about 6 signs total in stock. Mike Simerly stated we would have to ask permission to mount depending on if this is city road or county roads.
- In reviewing Ross’s proposals, we determined the June 24th date is already booked as a Milligan Highway Cleanup and on June 17th is the Roan Mountain Festival. We will look at dates in July to schedule the signage project.

NE Community Credit Union Spotlight:

Lisa reported the Spotlight table is currently at the NECCU location on Roan Mountain. It will move in June to the Johnson City West Oakland Avenue location, and in July it moves to the Main Office in Elizabethton on Jason Witten Way, behind EHS.

Elizabethton Parks & Recreation Events:

- Mike Mains said KCCB is welcome to have a KCCB booth at any of their summer events. However, he could use assistance on the larger events scheduled July 1st, August 26th, and Covered Bridge Days on September 22-24th. Don indicated we could schedule booth coverage on those days, as well as picking up trash and placing recycle bins out. Several members reported the public appreciates the trash cleanup during the events.
- Mike also reported the expected delivery date for the new trash cans ordered would be June 11th or 12th.
- Mike indicated Elizabethton has only recently supported the department with funding, which is good because he is getting less support from corporate sponsors.

Future Events:

- Don reported that Keep America Beautiful has redone their website and changed some of its deadlines for reporting. also indicate KCCB is not paid ahead of its membership dues, and just shows current. Currently, Carter County pays that membership fee. He will have to check if that funding will continue, since there are other funding cuts for the next fiscal year. KAB has a new governance and index reporting deadline of July 1st. Don sent out the indexing forms to be completed in June. He will gather the results and log them onto the KAB website.
- Jason Smith is the new KAB contact person and he recently had a zoom meeting where he discussed the changes to their website.

- There is also a Keep Tennessee Beautiful Affiliate conference & training session scheduled in Chattanooga on September 27th - 28th at the downtown Marriot Hotel. They will pay for a room, breakfast & lunch, and all the training materials. Anyone requesting to attend, please contact Don.

Next Events:

- The KCCB Milligan Highway Cleanup for summer is scheduled for June 24th.
- Ed Basconi suggested we schedule a Tweetsie Trail cleanup between the Coffee Company and Snap-On trail end.
- Don suggested we contact Southern Craft restaurant on Watauga Lake to consider a Seabin from Keep TN River Clean group.
- Don suggested we install a trail camera to monitor littering along Powder Branch. He asked if it could be placed on Mike Simerly' s property.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Mike Simerly, and the Board approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:18pm.

Submitted by Secretary Lisa Vezzosi