



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

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

August 17, 2023, at Noon

**Board Members Present:** Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Mike Mains, Melinda Maddock, Simon Maddock, Ross Garland, Mike Simerly

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Mains

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:04pm. A quorum was present.

**Opening Prayer:** Mike Simerly

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ed Basconi

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 27, 2023, was made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ed Jordan, and the **Board unanimously approved.**

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

### **Next Board Meeting:**

- The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom. This was not the usual day because of the upcoming conference in Chattanooga.
- Discussion regarding setting a regular meeting date for the fourth Thursday was made so we do not conflict with other community activities, such as the Lions Club, City Council, etc. A **motion was made by Ed Jordan**, and seconded by Mike Simerly, **to set the regular meeting to the fourth Thursday of each month. The Board unanimously approved.**

### **KCCB Treasurer Report:**

- The only expense in July was \$20.46 for the posting of the KCCB Annual Report with Tennessee. There were no deposits in July. This left a balance of \$6,116.50 in the account. With our anticipated funding coming from the City of Elizabethton and Carter County, we expect a budget revenue of about \$18, 862.18 for the fiscal year.
- We have received the first quarter City of Elizabethton payment, which was deposited on August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Carter County funding payment is pending. Don stated a conversation with Aaron Frazier indicated it was always the intention to include KCCB for funding, but that nonprofits would be paid only when all of the county budgeting allocations were finalized, so we could expect our funding payment in September.
- In our PayPal account, there are monies but after numerous contacts from Store Frontier, we have had no response. Ed Basconi will try to purchase and request a transfer of outstanding funding in the account with them. All communications are failing, and Ed Basconi suggested

we may want to disengage our relationship with Store Frontier. Ed suggested we investigate a local company to order merchandise.

- Don stated the PayPal account has a balance Of \$220.22 and that \$20 must remain to keep the account active for donations.
- The final budget document was reviewed, which was approved at the last meeting.
- The Benevity issues seem to be resolved by our submission of an IRS letter forwarded to Microsoft indicating our active non-profit status. The error occurred as a result of an IRS error of omission from the IRS report which looked like KCCB was revoked. Although, on the IRS database, KCCB was listed correctly, the report used by Microsoft had an error. Microsoft has now corrected the error on their end. Melinda confirmed the correction was made on Benevity's site.
- Mike Simerly offered his verbal resignation as Treasurer but wishes to remain on the KCCB Board. Lisa offered to be both the Secretary and Treasurer. **A motion was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Basconi, to accept Lisa as Secretary/Treasurer. The Board unanimously approved.**

#### **Officer & Director Elections:**

- Don discussed the issue of elections in our bylaws. He stated although KCCB moved its fiscal year from July-June, we did not move the election of officers each January to the same fiscal timeline. Mike Simerly says that a change would allow projects to continue to the fiscal year end with greater ease. **A motion to revise the election of officers to serve a term using our fiscal year, rather than the calendar year, was made by Mike Simerly, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, and the Board unanimously approved.**
- Similarly, this would change the requirement for the Confidentiality statements to move the fiscal year election term beginning July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Trout Trash Trap Signage:**

- Lisa spoke to Rick Elliot from Trout Unlimited at the Tweetsie Trail groundbreaking event. Rick indicated his group would still like to have signage placed at the Elizabethton Trout Trash Trap at Lyons Field. We indicated the lack of response by Trout Unlimited led to KCCB dropping the signage and maintenance funding from our budget. Just days after that conversation, at Rick's urging, KCCB presented Trouts Unlimited with our draft of the signage (done last year), for Rick to present at their group's meeting for approval. We proposed the sign be made to look similar to the county wayfinding signs placed at other sites. Rick called back and stated his Board approved the wording and sign design. Rick indicated that Trouts Unlimited would be willing to share the costs, if reasonable. This topic is discussed further in the proposed events section below.

#### **KAB & KTNB Training and Affiliate Conference:**

- Don indicated his KAB training was completed online, rather than going to Memphis. KAB cancelled the event and created an online class for the affiliate requirement. Due to changes at KAB, the KTNB no longer has training hours approved through them. KAB will offer online

director training and all other training hours are available only at the national conference held each year. This year's conference is in San Diego, California and cost \$600 to participate. They also do not pay for travel costs.

- Don indicated the website reporting for KAB has entirely changed and they are having difficulty with their new format. He needed to contact them several times for corrections to our KCCB data and compliance requirements. We are now in good standing as part of the President's Circle, having completed all the requirements.
- September 27-28 is the KTNB conference in Chattanooga. Don and Lisa are attending KCCB, and KTNB is paying for expenses for hotel, gas, and parking. Most meals are covered.

#### **Volunteer Suggestions:**

- Based on a request for a "KCCB Do Not Litter" metal sign to be posted on Taylor Road, Don will work on getting permission from the city. Ross questioned exactly where the sign was proposed, and Don stated he would get him the location. Don also suggested we request permission to place a metal KCCB sign at the baseball fields at Happy Valley High School and perhaps other county high schools.
- After discussion between Mike Simerly and Preston Cobb, KCCB can present a community recognition award to Daniel French. Mike indicated the award is usually presented by the City Attorney at the City Council meeting. The City Council will create the plaque. If anyone wants to edit the current version of the wording, please contact Mike Simerly. Ed Jordan reiterated that Daniel was a volunteer who came out while he was battling cancer. Daniel recently fell at home and broke his hip and femur. While is currently hospitalized at Johnson City Medical Center, he should be moving to a rehab facility soon. Mike Simerly states if Daniel cannot travel to City Council, an arrangement can be made to present the award to him in rehab.

#### **New Business:**

- Ed Jordan discussed the tradition at the high school homecoming game events of tossing our candy to the audience. The candy wrappers are not properly placed in trash cans, resulting wrappers scattered over the field, high school property, roadways, and finally end up in the streams & rivers. Ed wished to discuss the elimination of the tradition with school leaders. Melinda said we should not bring that suggestion but offer a cleanup resource. Volunteers could clean up the area after the homecoming game. We could appeal to the High School Principal to offer supplies to clean up.
- Ed Jordan discussed the practice of weed control by the City of Elizabethton by spraying toxic substances along the highway/roadways. He gave Milligan Highway, as an example. He feels it poisons everything from plants, animals, and waterways. Don suggested we ask the city for the MSDS sheet to research the chemicals used. Melinda suggested asking the City Council & the County Commission to get the info and question their decision to use those chemicals. By questioning the contamination of those areas, it would create a public record with local government. Ed states that it is a defoliant, and many are harmful. Mike Simerly suggested contacting Danny Hilbert for the information record of the chemicals and offered

to make that call to Danny. Ed Basconi suggested we review the MSDS data first, and then question the city and county on their training and usage.

### **Proposed Events & Projects:**

- Don asked the group to review the list of proposed events by category and requirements. We should review and vote on events and projects at next month's meeting.
- Mike Simerly stated he had made a presentation to the Elizabethton School System Board suggesting they participate in a flower plot contest between schools. They were very receptive to the idea. Mike suggested we create a formal proposal and present it at one of their board meetings.
- Mike Simerly was approached by the City of Elizabethton for participation in their Christian Concert August event at the Elizabethton High School by conducting the cleanup after the concert. The event was held in the football stadium and was attended by about 5,000 people this year. They hired four people this year to conduct the clean up from 10pm-midnight. In addition to payment for the service, KCCB would be advertised as "sponsor" of the event in their programming. Since it is known the KCCB works with Elizabethton Parks & Recreation for similar types of events, the city would like KCCB to consider this partnership.
- Ross stated the wayfinding signage plan needs to be completed further. He will contact Shannon at the County Highway Commission to work on a plan. Don reminded him that we spend about \$50 a sign in concrete, and we budgeted \$1,000 this coming year. Ross indicated that Snyder Sign still has a blank sign that was not previously used for wayfinding that could be used for the Elizabethton Trout Trash Trap purpose. Since the county paid for the sign, we would need to ask permission from Patty Woodby to utilize it for that sign. Ross indicated the blank sign was originally to be used at Fish Springs but didn't get consensus. Ross told Lisa that the contact at Snyder Sign was Charity Sparks or Brandy Holland. Ed Basconi asked Ross if he could devote a couple of hours to creating a plan for plotting out where the other directional signage should be placed prior to calling Shannon. Ross agreed so a better plan could be developed prior to moving forward.
- Don mentioned a conversation with Courtney Bean regarding signage for wayfinding along Main Street Elizabethton was being developed. Don told her that signage for the Carter County Court House, Covered Bridge Park and other sites were already purchased and awaiting placement. These signs were on hold for construction completion at those sites.
- Don reminded everyone about the Roan Mountain Stormwater group event to clean out the Trout Trash Trap at Anderson Park this Saturday.
- Don reported that Courtney Bean asked for volunteers to clean up Elizabethton on Sunday morning from 10am-noon. It is the group "Responsible Volunteers", that is sponsoring it and Main Street Elizabethton is providing the supplies and lunch. While Courtney provided the news story to the Johnson City Press to publish, they indicated the event was KCCB, in error.
- Ed Basconi asked about the future Eastman Chemical event for recycling. Don explained it was a recycling event to get more information to the community and our participation could result in Eastman Chemical sponsoring an event for us.

- Ed Basconi stated he had approached Milligan University about sponsoring a wildflower plot on their property. He explained to them the benefits of pollination, as well as saving costs of lawn mowing that land. He spoke with David Brown and asked him to consider doing a wildflower project next Spring on their property with us.
- Ed Basconi reported to the group that he trimmed the planted trees along the Tweetsie Trail and placed a red tag on the dead trees, so they could be easily identified in the Spring. He indicated that he clipped all the dead branches, as well. Don thanked him from the group.
- Don stated the Indexing Score results showed an increase in litter overall. He also indicated someone had started a blog entitled “Danger to You” and put the KCCB name to it. The author discussed homeless people and litter in the community and blamed KCCB because we do not clean up these areas. However, many of these areas are not public land, and KCCB is prohibited from private land clean up. Don wanted the Board to be aware of this blog and its content.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Ed Basconi, seconded by Ed Jordan, **Board approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:21pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.