



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

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

November 15, 2023, at Noon

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

**Board Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:13pm. A quorum was present.

**Opening Prayer:** Mike Simerly

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ed Jordan

**Approval of the Agenda:** A motion to add discussion as to the wording on the plague for Daniel French was made by Ed Basconi, seconded by Mike Simerly, and approved. **Board unanimously approved the agenda and addition.**

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes from **September 20, 2023**, was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, and the **Board unanimously approved.**

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

### **Opening Statement:**

Don made an opening statement to thank everyone for the projects completed. He suggested we look at celebrating citizens like Will Miller and Susette (Anna) Clark for the contributions this year. Susette met up with a Johnson County group called the Litter Chicks and picked up 46 bags of trash. Don stated that KCCB offered the Litter Chicks advertisement on our website for their activities, so they could have coverage beyond their Facebook page.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

- Discussion was made to decide if we should change our meetings to the fourth Thursday of each month. It was unanimously decided to make each meeting the fourth Thursday at noon. There will not be a December meeting due to the holidays.
- The **next Board meeting will be Thursday, January 25, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

### **KCCB Treasurer Report:**

- The October balance is \$10,069.47. Deposits included \$25.00 from Benevity, \$200.22 deposit from our PayPal account, and \$187.00 from Overmountain Chapter of Trout Unlimited for the shared cost of the Buffalo Creek signage. Our only expense was \$374.25 to Snyder Signs.

- The Carter County funding payment is expected soon.
- It appears Store Frontier has closed. We have had no response. We will search for another vendor to order KCCB merchandise.

#### Trout Trash Trap Signage:

- Permission from Mayor Woodby was granted to use the existing blank sign stored at Snyder Signs. The Buffalo Creek sign was ordered with Snyder Signs and should be available soon. Once the sign is completed, we will retrieve it and store it with Mike Mains at the Elizabethton Parks & Recreation storage area. We will then determine a date to erect with the assistance of the Trout Unlimited group.
- Mike Mains stated that he could submit the city permit request once the sign is complete.
- In addition to the cost of the sign, we expect a cost of 4 bags of concrete to mount the sign. Lisa spoke to Rick Elliot from Trout Unlimited regarding the cost of the Snyder Sign proposal. Rick indicated that the cost was reasonable, and their group approved the plan and half the costs.

#### Discussion on Proposed Events:

- Ed Jordan suggested that we could get better attendance at events if KCCB promoted incentives. It was proposed we ask for a discount coupon or gift card for volunteers to receive. We can ask for promotional items at vendors like Jersey Mike, Dunkin Donuts, etc. Ed Basconi suggested buying water bottles with our logo, baseball caps, etc.
- Ed Basconi and Melinda Mattock met with Jessica Hayes at Elizabethton High School, regarding a project like the seed packets. Jessica put together a grant proposal to start a recycling program at EHS for paper recycling. They would like a recycle container(s), stickers, and a reward party. She is asking KCCB to fund the grant in the sum of \$829.69. The proposal was given to the group. The suggestion was liked by everyone. Ed Basconi also talked to Julie Harrison at Dugger Junior High School on a project for artwork or another project suggestion. **A motion was made by Ed Basconi and seconded by Melinda Mattock to approve the funding for EHS in the sum of \$850.00 to fund the recycling project.** The sum was rounded up to an even number. **The Board unanimously approved.** Lisa will give the check to Ed Basconi to get to Jessica Hayes.
- The Elizabethton Christmas Parade is scheduled for December 9, 2023, at 6:00pm. Ed Basconi suggested we just walk or have another giveaway item rather than candy. It was felt that the candy just ends up on the street to clean up. Mike Simerly suggested we distribute seed packets or utilize the seed coasters. However, these items take time to create, and we don't have time before the parade to get it together. More discussion was made regarding the distribution of candy, like events of HS homecomings, which just create a mess. We were reminded that Susette Clark worked with Unaka HS to clean up the field after each football game utilizing the HS sport groups. Melinda stated that she and Simon will take candy for the parade and suggested everyone do as they feel.
- Don asked Ross about a damaged sign that was reported at the Hampton Trail head. No further information is available at this time.
- Discussion regarding the Community Recognition for Daniel French was made. The City Council portion is set, and we are awaiting a date to present to Daniel upon his recovery.

- Don asked the group to review any of the proposed projects. We need to plan for trees and seed plots, etc.
- Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> is the No Trash November event. We will clean up the Tweetsie between the Coffee Company and Snap-On Tools.
- We had to cancel our Milligan Highway event due to the Carter County Sheriff's Office conducting a clean-up two days before our scheduled event.
- Mike Simerly noted that the Elizabethton Christmas Tree lighting was scheduled for Saturday at 6:30pm.
- Mike Simerly stated that City Council would like to conduct the Citizen Award to Daniel French on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. He asked everyone to come and be present for the event. Mike indicated that we could have the recognition award on paper or a plaque. It was decided to have paper resolution certificate in a frame by suggestion of Ross. The award will be given by the City Attorney, and everyone can speak afterward to recognize Daniel and his efforts to our group. Ed Jordan will make sure Daniel can attend. Don will ensure it is published in the newspaper.

**Discussion Response to Volunteer Suggestions:**

- Don sent a letter to Chris Schuttler for permission to post a KCCB sign on Taylor Road and Tiger Creek Road. Mike Mains stated that he may have more signs in storage and will check for them.

**New Business:**

- Don asked Mike Simerly about the excessive signs in the public right-of-way areas around Elizabethton. These signs have the business name and phone number on them. Don says the business should be contacted that these signs are not legal and subject to fines. Don says no code enforcement officer is addressing . Mike Simerly says a new code enforcement officer has been hired recently. He said he would address at the City Council meeting to contact these businesses to remove signage or receive a fine.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Ed Basconi, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, and the **Board approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.