

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

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

January 25, 2024, at Noon

**Board Members Present:** Don Hlavaty, , Ed Basconi, Lisa Vezzosi, Ed Jordan, Simon Maddock

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Mains, Mike Simerly, Melinda Maddock, and Ross Garland

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:08pm. A quorum was present.

**Opening Prayer:**  Ed Basconi

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ed Jordan

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

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A **motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 15, 2023,** was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Basconi, and the **Board unanimously approved**.

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

**Next Board Meeting:**

* Discussion was made at the previous meeting to change our meetings to the fourth Thursday of each month, which passed unanimously. However, it again was determined this time conflicts with Lions Club, so Mike Simerly cannot attend both. Therefore, it was determined we change our Board meeting to the fourth Wednesday of each month at noon.
* The **next Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 28, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

**KCCB Treasurer Report:**

* The December year-end balance is $14,294.47. Deposits included $75.00 individual donation through Benevity. No expenses occurred.
* Don reported that he renewed the KCCB domain for a one-year period at a cost of $271.19. This includes domains, email, Word Press, etc. We budgeted for this expense. A **motion was made to approve reimbursement to Don for this expense** by Lisa Vezzosi, seconded by Ed Jordan. Because Don could not vote for himself, a quorum was not present. It was decided that Lisa would email absent members to get a majority vote for reimbursement. Immediately after the meeting, Lisa emailed those members and received a yes vote from Mike Simerly. So, with the current membership present and Mike’s vote, the **motion was passed to reimburse Don $271.19.**
* Lisa reported the KCCB request for funding in fiscal year 2024-2025 was submitted to Carter County Finance for a $5000.00 request. A presentation must be conducted in the Budget Committee’s March meeting and details will be given before the date. Requests made will be determined and results will occur in June’s County Commission meeting.
* There is no vendor yet for merchandise sales. Ed Jordan asked if we could again investigate the purchase of custom sheriff badges for children. Don mentioned that kids really want giveaways. The Keep TN Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful have not come through on free items but have items for sale on their websites. Ed Basconi suggested Lisa investigate Triple Crown Products for purchase of items.
* Ed Jordan asked about the Parks & Recreation trash cans distribution, and Simon said they are great and have been set up along Riverside Park near the stadium.

**Discussion on Past Events:**

* The Christmas parade was on December 9th and was a good event because of good weather and increased attendance by the community.
* The Citizen’s Award was on December 14th and that went very well. Daniel French received his award, and he was incredibly pleased.

**Discussion on Elizabethton/Carter County School Projects:**

* Ed Basconi reported that he and Melinda Maddock presented the Recycling Grant project check of $850.00 at Elizabethton High School with the teacher (Jessica Hayes) and principal (Dr. Joe Minton). Ed shared a photo for Don to add to the KCCB website. Ed provided a photo of the presentation.
* Ed discussed the seed packet project for this year. The high school class is again willing to create seed packets. They made 450 packets last year. Ed suggested we have more variety this year and include zinnias, cosmos, and sunflowers for the packets. The group agreed and Ed will research the options to purchase. Don indicated that the labels could be printed free by Don’s HP printer contract using the allotment of color cartridges on hand.
* Don suggested we create signage at the flower plots with our logo. Ed Basconi said we should recognize Parks & Recreation, the school class, and possibly the type of flower(s) planted there.
* Don asked if we should ask the elementary school about creating plots. A contact with the school district office needs to be made.
* Lisa stated that TDOT placed an activity book online that can be given to elementary school age children. It is designed for kids under 8 years old, and includes coloring pages, games, and educational information. Lisa suggested that KCCB could have the booklets printed up at the UPS store and distributed to schools or the summer events information booths. Ed Basconi asked if the booklets could be scaled down to a 5”x 8” page. It might be you would lose content space. Lisa will research costs.

**Discussion of KCCB signage and Wayfinding Project:**

* Don has contacted Shannon Burchett at Carter County Road Commission for permission to post a KCCB sign on Taylor Road and Tiger Creek Road. He cannot seem to get a call back.
* The sign created for the Buffalo Creek Trout Trash Trap is being stored with Elizabethton Parks & Recreation. Mike Mains indicated that office could install, but we told him that we want to include Overmountain Trout Unlimited and KCCB for a photo of installation. Lisa also indicated KCCB would pay for the concrete at installation, rather than them paying for that expense.
* Don indicated he spoke to Will Miller regarding the Buffalo Creek Trash Trap being out of the water. Will indicated the county did not remove it and does not know who did. Will did state there is an issue near that area where the intake pipe leading to the golf course was filled with silt and creating water problems at the golf course. Mike Simerly had told Don that the creek had been cleaned up from tree branches and debris recently due to a threat by residents there due to flooding issues. A collapsed bridge/driveway was also removed. Mike thought the city contract may have removed the trap but did not know for sure. This issue needs to be researched more.

**Proposed 2024 Events & Projects:**

* The Watauga Lake Clean Up with Kathleen Gibi is scheduled for February 17th. The event will be at the Little Milligan Boat Ramp lot. She now has 3 boats, so she can handle more people. The registration link is on her website. Don stated more advertisement of the event leads to better attendance, so he has posted on the website and sent to our mailing list. He also called Chris Schuttler to request a dumpster for the trash from the clean up.
* The Great American Clean Up on the Tweetsie Trail is this Spring and we should plan for April. Tennessee Tree Day is March 16th. We should plan to plant our trees in March. We should plan on a Milligan Highway Clean Up in April. Our flower plots should be scheduled in early May.
* We need to order trees from Hannon. There were 5 dead Red Buds from last year that are tagged for replacement. There are 3 on the Mill Street lot and 2 along Elk Avenue. It was suggested that we price out the mulch and weed killer maintenance contract with Hannon at the same time. The Roan Mountain arborist wanted to plant trees at Eric Anderson Park for their tree library. Tom Niziol wanted to create a pollinator garden, as well. We should plan to plant 5 trees at Roan Mountain. We could also allot some trees at Dixon Park. It was determined that we should wait for the new Elizabethton Parks & Recreation director to coordinate any planting since we need permission.
* Lisa is going to contact Northeast Community Credit Union to feature KCCB on their Member Spotlight at each of their 4 branches. We can include the seed packets giveaway again since it was such a great success last year.
* We need to purchase flower seeds for all areas and packet envelopes, etc. A **motion was made by Ed Jordan to have Ed Basconi order these items**, seconded by Simon Maddock, and the **Board unanimously passed**. Lisa told Ed Basconi that she would get the tax-free forms to him for these purchases.

**New Business:**

* Don indicated that he applied for a grant through Keep America Beautiful for a Clean Up Package that includes 50 vests, grabbers, bags, and gloves. The grant is to encourage volunteer groups to hold events. The grant decision will be determined in February.
* Don reported he had a conversation with the owner of Elizabethton Jersey Mike’s store about promotional sponsorship and gift cards for distribution to volunteers who attend our events.
* Ed Basconi distributed a newspaper article from the Elizabethton Star regarding solid waste, recycling, and a bill to support Tennessee projects. Ed Jordan stated several larger cities (Elizabethton & Jonesborough) were halting recycling because of the low return on investment. He indicated that this is threat to jobs regionally. Ed Basconi encouraged us to reach out to local lawmakers to support recycling efforts. Don reminded everyone to be cautious about using the KCCB name for political support, so we do not lose our non-profit status.
* Ed Basconi asked about Melinda’s meeting with McCormick Middle School regarding the school art project. Simon was not aware of the results. He could ask Melinda to contact Ed.
* Ed Jordan stated we need to recruit more board members. Don agreed and said we need to recruit younger people. It was suggested that we could ask Will Miller or Susette Clark since they attend many events. Mary suggested the Friends of Roan Mountain group may want to volunteer for a board position. Don stated he could post on the website and mailing list. Don also suggested that we could ask Sgt. Patterson since he coordinates the Sheriff’s clean ups, and we could better coordinate our activities. We could also ask Sheriff Fraley.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Ed Basconi, seconded by Simon Maddock, and the **Board approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.