

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

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

March 27, 2024, at Noon

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

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

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:02pm. A quorum was **not** present.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A **motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2024,** was made by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Ed Jordan, and the **members present approved.** **Due to no quorum, it was decided to email the remaining members to vote for approval.**

**Public Comments**: None.

**Next Board Meeting:**

* The **next Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

**KCCB Treasurer Report:**

* The February month-end balance is $15,078.17. There were no deposits in February. Expenses included $360.19 for wildflower seeds, $500.00 for McCormick Elementary School for art project, and $84.72 for the seed envelopes and paper supplies. This totaled $945.11 for the month.
* New expenditures for March include a remaining website fee of $36.16 that should be reimbursed to Don for domain costs. **A motion was made** **to reimburse domain costs to Don for $36.16** by Lisa, seconded by Ed Jordan, and **members in attendance agreed. Lisa will email remaining members to obtain a quorum vote.**
* Lisa noted that other expenditures in March included $1,600 for Mills Landscaping to pay for tree maintenance, $200.00 for the annual Chamber of Commerce membership fee, $245.36 for give-a-away items (20 tees, 20 bags, 20 totes), and $14.49 for calendar supplies.
* Don stated that Keep America Beautiful allots $10,000 each year for affiliates in good standing, or Keep Tennessee Beautiful allots $5,000 for affiliates. Lisa completed several requests for reimbursement and submitted them this week. This includes $5,700 for trees, $445.11 for wildflower seeds & supplies, a quote for 200 tarps for future projects totaling $1097.00, a quote for $639.21 for 50 Garbo grabbers, and a quote for $818.00 to buy 100 safety vests imprinted with “Volunteer” on the back. The total for all monies requested totaled $8,699.32. The request is currently pending at Keep Tennessee Beautiful and Missy Marshall and we should know soon.
* In addition to our reimbursement project at KTnB, we received free items to give away at our events. We received 400 pencils, 100 notebooks, and 400 activity books with crayons. We received so much because KTnB says few groups want items for children. We will use these for our summer festival booth events.
* The previous KTnB grant allocation request of last month for 50 vests, 50 grabbers, and bags has had no response yet.
* There was discussion on the recruitment of new board members. Ed Jordan stated we need to recruit younger members. He stated that he was concerned with the lack of participation of Ross at our meetings recently. He suggested writing an editorial to recruit and post in the area newspapers. Ed Basconi agreed and stated that he became active due to a similar article years ago. Don stated that he wanted to try to recruit Will Miller from the county stormwater group but wanted to check with his boss first to avoid any conflicts. Don also reported that the City of Elizabethton has not yet named a new Parks & Recreation Director, but conversations with Dave Nanney are that they want our partnership for the tree planting and summer activities. Don stated he would draft a document for recruitment.

**Discussion on Past Events:**

* Melinda attended a Watauga River clean up event on March 9th with the Overmountain Trout group. It was successful in cleaning up the riverway.
* Don mentioned the Buffalo Creek trout trash trap has been reinstalled as of March 2nd. We will schedule the sign to be installed in May.
* The Tennessee Tree Day on March 16th was successful. The event was at Sycamore Shoals.
* Don noted that Johnson City had their Beautification Day this past week and was successful in cleaning up numerous areas with 150 volunteers.

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

* The McCormick School project is completed. Melinda coordinated the artwork into each month and Don created a calendar with the artwork. The calendars are posted on our website and Melinda put them on Facebook. There is a link to print out the calendars so people can create their own. We researched having calendars bound, but the cost is about $6.00 each and doesn’t include the printing costs. Ed Basconi suggests we contact Copy Net in Johnson City for pricing. Don shared the artwork project with Mallory at Keep Tennessee Beautiful and she offered to advertise on their website, as well.
* Melinda Maddock also took over all the Facebook posts. She will update on a weekly basis for KCCB.
* Ed reported the AP Environmental class completed the seed packets. They created 750 packets this year. Ed suggested KCCB provide a pizza lunch to the class as a thank you. Lisa stated we could purchase with the KCCB debit card or just reimburse Ed. **A motion to provide the AP class with a pizza lunch** was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Lisa, those present approved. **Due to no quorum, it was decided to email the remaining members to vote for approval.**
* Ed stated that several students expressed interest in participating in our future project for service credit. Lisa stated that she could provide a KCCB letter for those students who participate in our events.
* Ed Basconi reported that the Elizabethton High School Recycling Grant project is underway, and bins have been purchased. No further update on their project from Jessica Hayes yet. Don stated once completed, we offer a pizza lunch to that class, as well.

**Discussion of Signage:**

* The sign created for the Buffalo Creek Trout Trash Trap is being stored with Elizabethton Parks & Recreation. The placement of the new sign will probably occur in May, but no date has yet been set. Don will confirm with Rick Elliot and Dave Nanney. Elizabethton Parks & Recreation will install once we determine a date, and we will 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.

**Proposed 2024 Events & Projects:**

* The Great American Clean Up on the Tweetsie Trail scheduled for May 18th at 9:00am. We will meet at Lions Field.
* Don contacted Hannon Landscaping to order trees. The quote was almost double the cost of last year and totaled $5,700. The order has 6 Redbud, 7 Flowering Dogwood, and 7 Serviceberry. There were 5 dead Red Buds from last year that Ed tagged for replacement. There are 3 on the Mill Street lot and 2 along Elk Avenue. Due to the redbud issue, Hannon suggested we order serviceberry trees. Of the 20 trees ordered, 5 will replace the dead ones. Dave Nanney suggested some at Kiwanis Park and will research where others could be placed. The Roan Mountain arborist wanted to plant trees at Eric Anderson Park for their tree library. Don suggests planting trees at Dixson Park, but the land is city property and not part of Dave Nanney’s area. Permission from Danny Hilbert would need to be obtained. We could also plant trees at Roan Mountain. The event is planned for April 13th.
* Ed Basconi will determine the wildflower plot areas again this year. It was suggested we ask for permission again for Dixson Park. Lisa suggested we create a yard sign at the flower plots with our logo. Lisa provided a draft sign that recognized KCCB, Carter County, and Parks & Recreation. Lisa will price out the cost at the UPS store. We will also contact Tom Niziol about a pollinator garden at Roan Mountain.
* Lisa reported the NECCU Member Spotlight is scheduled for April at Roan Mountain branch, May at the 19E branch, and in July at the Johnson City branch. The main branch is not doing events due to the ongoing construction. We will offer our stickers, brochures, and some seed packets at the display.

**New Business:**

* Don reported several items dumped along Milligan Highway. He reported them to Mike Simerly to expediate action with the city to pick up and/or have enforcement fine offenders. There are 3 areas and include a mattress, a set of chairs, and a sofa.
* Ed Basconi and KCCB received a request from the EHS art teacher, Lisa Malone. She is requesting a partnership project for Art Rocks, which will create a rock garden for Isaiah 117 House. She is looking for a contribution of $90.00 toward the supplies. The project would fall under our education goals. **A motion to approve $90.00 contribution toward the Art Rocks Project at EHS** was made by Lisa, seconded by Ed Jordan, and **approved by members present. Due to no quorum, it was decided to email the remaining members to vote for approval.**
* Don presented a request from Donica Kreps from the Elizabethton Farmers Market group. They are requesting to create a sponsorship relationship for their events with KCCB. They have planned a summer cleanup of the Riverwalk area around Covered Bridge. As a primary sponsor, KCCB would be advertised in their applicable publications. They are requesting funding to use to fund market management costs and to continue the educational programs Ed Basconi suggested that we could have a booth (at least once a month) at the Farmer Market. Don indicated KCCB could provide grabbers, bags, vests, etc. Ed Jordan suggested we make a $200.00 donation. After discussion, **a motion was made to donate $200.00 to the Elizabethton Farmers Market to become a sponsor of their group** by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Basconi, and approved by the members present. **Due to no quorum, it was decided to email the remaining members to vote for approval.**
* Ed Jordan thanked Don and Lisa for their continued support and dedication to duties. The absence of a full board has been hard on the few. Don suggested a future change to consider, as he would like to step down from being President. Don suggested Lisa become President and he would take the duties of Treasurer. Don stated he would continue all the website maintenance and Melinda has taken over the Facebook portion. Don asked Ed Basconi if he would consider being Vice President, since Ross has become inactive. Ed stated he would consider it.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Bascon, and the **members present approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.