

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

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

April 24, 2024, at Noon

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

**Board Members Absent:** Ross Garland

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:01pm. A quorum was present.

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A **motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 27, 2024,** was made by Ed Jordan, seconded by Mike Simerly, and unanimously the **Board** **approved.**

**Public Comments**: None.

**Next Board Meeting:**

* The **next Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 22, 2024**, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom. Ed Jordan asked about moving the meetings back to the evening at the courthouse conference room. He questioned that we should give consideration to promote with the county again since their renovations are more complete. Don indicated that he will contact the mayor and check the schedule.

**KCCB Treasurer Report:**

* The March month-end balance is $15,323.32. There were 2 deposits in February. We received the 3rd quarter city funding of $1,875.00 and a Benevity donation of $400.00. Expenses included $200.00 for our Chamber of Commerce membership, $1,600.00 for Mills Landscaping for the yearly tree maintenance, $215.36 KTNB give away(20 tees, 20 bags, 20 totes), and $14.49 for calendar supplies. This totaled $2,029.85 for the month.
* New expenditures for April include a remaining website fee of $36.16 that was reimbursed to Don for domain costs, $936.71 for Garbo Grabbers, $5,700.00 to Mills Landscaping for trees, $90.00 toward the EHS Art Rocks project, $180.00 for Java Juice gift cards for McCormick students, $146.77 for the EHS pizza party, $818.00 for 100 safety vests, and $1000.00 for 200 giveaway tarps.
* Don stated that Keep America Beautiful allocation for affiliates in good standing allows $10,000.00 each fiscal year. The requests for reimbursement were submitted and approved. We will be receiving reimbursement for $5,700 trees, $818 for vests, $1,000 for tarps, $936,71 for grabbers, and $445.11 for seeds & packets supplies. This totals $8,899.82,
* As a requirement, KCCB must indicate “A Keep America Affiliate” on our logo. Don updated the logos on the website. We must also complete and enter our Index Report information by June 30th. Don reported that Ross will complete his portion of the report and submit it back to Don before the deadline. Don indicated that he will get a blank form to complete for Mike Simerly and Ed Basconi so they can complete their survey portion. Lastly, we must enter our “events” online that focus on litter, education, recycling, and beautification.
* The Carter County Funding request for next fiscal year 2024-2025 was submitted and Don presented it to the Finance Committee meeting in March. We requested $5,000 again for next fiscal year.

**Discussion on March Events:**

* The tree planting event occurred on 4/13/2024 with 3 trees planted at Mills Race, 3 trees along Elk Avenue, and 7 trees at Riverside Park. There are 7 trees to be planted at Kiwanis Park. Apparently, Hannon did not obtain permission from the utilities to dig holes there, as he should have had completed. Therefore, those trees will be planted this next week. We had 2 students attend and they received a letter for service credit recognition. One student was from the AP class at EHS, and the other was a University of Kentucky student.
* All the remaining trees have been mulched for the annual maintenance. Mike Simerly indicated he could request watering from the fire department, as necessary.
* Melinda requested more information about the price of trees from Mills Landscaping. Don indicated the price was almost doubled from last year. Melinda requested more detailed information about the trees and other school projects so she could update our Facebook posts. Ed Jordan stated we should research a new vendor for trees next year due the number of dead trees and installation issues.
* Lisa reported the NECCU Spotlight display will be moving from the Roan Mountain branch to the Elizabethton 19E branch for the month of May. We have our seed packets for giveaways, as well as stickers, brochures, and the poster display. Mike Simerly suggested we provide a method for people to volunteer with a signup sheet. Lisa will provide that information starting in May.
* Ed Jordan stated he organized a clean-up event on 4/21/2024, with St. John Episcopal Church. KCCB provided the grabbers, bags, gloves, etc. He stated he would get the photos to Don to post on the website.

**Discussion of Signage:**

* Don contacted Rick Elliot regarding the sign created for the Buffalo Creek Trout Trash Trap. It is tentatively scheduled for May 2nd. More details will follow once confirmed. We offered to purchase the concrete.
* At the Carter County Finance Meeting, Don spoke to Shannon Burchett regarding the existing wayfinding signs being stored. Shannon indicated they are too busy at this time to install.

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

* The McCormick School project is being updated for the month of May on the website and Facebook. Melinda stated the Java Juice gift cards were distributed and appreciated. Mike Simerly suggested we utilize a Chick-Fil-A gift card in the future.
* Melinda indicated she would like to initiate an Instagram account with our event updates.
* Ed reported the AP Environmental class had their pizza lunch. Ed and Lisa attended the thank you lunch, and it was well received. The cost was $146.77.
* 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.
* Ed Basconi reported that the Art Rocks Project will have an event on May 2nd from 10:45-11:30am at the Elizabethton Isaiah House.

**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. We will clean between Lions Field and the Coffee Company.
* Don reported that Hellbenders Outfitters wanted to partner for a clean-up in the future.
* Don reported that he, Mary, & Lisa will be on vacation from May 6th-15th. He will also be gone May 27th-June 1st.
* The Wildflower Planting event was discussed. The plots have been plowed once. Due to the weather, Ed Basconi suggested it to be scheduled for May 16th and May 17th. Ed will contact Dave Nanney regarding further plowing prior to planting. He also stated several students may be interested in the event. Ed contacted Erin Herbert from the Roan Mountain Appalachian Highlands regarding placement of a wildflower plot there.
* Since we were able to purchase 200 tarps for a giveaway event, Don asked Ed Jordan to contact Mayor Woodby and Chris Schuttler to schedule a date. Once they determine a date, we can ask Chief Shaw and Sheriff Fraley for their participation. We are hoping to schedule it for June, before the end of our fiscal year.

**New Business:**

* No new business reported.

**Adjournment:**

A **motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Mike Simerly, seconded by Ed Basconi, and the **Board approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 12:54pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.