



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

Chamber Conference Room, 615 W. Elk Avenue, Elizabethton & Zoom  
May 22, 2024, at Noon

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

**Board Members Absent:** Ross Garland and Melinda Maddock

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

**Call to Order:** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:07pm. A quorum was present.

**Opening Prayer:** Mike Simerly

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Lisa Vezzosi

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2024, was made by Mike Simerly, seconded by Lisa Vezzosi, and unanimously the Board approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

### **Next Board Meeting:**

- The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom. It will be meeting for the election of officers.

### **KCCB Treasurer Report:**

- The April month-end balance is \$7,585.68. The only deposit was a Benevity donation of \$375.00. We received the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter City of Elizabethton funding payment of \$1,875.00 was received but deposited in May.
- 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, and \$818.00 for 100 safety vests. The remaining invoices which will be posted in May are \$1000.00 for 200 giveaway tarps and \$360.00 for the Jersey Mike's gift cards to be used on the Tweetsie Trail cleanup date and \$20.94 for water & Gatorade for the same event.
- We are awaiting reimbursement from the Keep America Beautiful allocation for affiliates in good standing which totals \$8,899.82. We should be paid once our June events are completed and submitted to their website activity log.
- As a requirement, KCCB must also complete and enter our Index Report information by June 30<sup>th</sup>. 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.

- Our June meeting will be the election of Board members. We are still in need of new members. There are 3 openings.
- Once Board member elections are complete, a new confidential statement is required for each member elected. Lisa distributed the policy and form to the current Board membership.
- New Keep America Beautiful annual dues have increased to \$313.50. Don is trying to get the invoice for county payment.
- The request for City of Elizabethton funding of \$7,500 will be submitted soon.

#### **Discussion on April Events:**

- Ed Basconi reported there are new trash cans distributed along the Tweetsie Trail. We should consider purchasing more for the city parks/trail.
- The wildflower pollinator plots have been planted. Many flowers blooming from the last year. Don completed some weed-whacking around the plots. We used 2 pounds of seed from last year and only needed ½ pound at the Sycamore plot due to regrowth.
- The NECCU Business Spotlight will be coming down June 1<sup>st</sup>. There is none for June, but in July, we will have our display at the Johnson City location. We have our seed packets for giveaways, as well as stickers, brochures, and the poster display. Based on Mike Simerly's suggestion, we also created an informational postcard for people to volunteer with our events and/or visit our website.

#### **Discussion of Signage:**

- Don reported the Buffalo Creek Trout Trash Trap sign was placed up along the riverbed. While it was planned for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the permit obtained forced an earlier deadline, so it was completed. Rick Elliot asked if we wanted a media announcement. Mike Simerly said we should have the Elizabethton Star post an article about the signage.
- There has been no progress on placement of county road signage with Shannon Burchett and no information the Tiger Creek sign request by county commissioners.

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

- The McCormick School project artwork is being updated each month on the website and Facebook.
- 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 had their celebration on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Elizabethton High School recognizing Isaiah 117 House.

#### **Proposed 2024 Events & Projects:**

- The Great American Clean Up on the Tweetsie Trail scheduled for May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am. We will meet at Lions Field. We will clean between Lions Field and the Coffee Company.

- The Index Reporting is due by June 26<sup>th</sup>, so Don can enter on the website of Keep America Beautiful. It is a requirement for next fiscal year reimbursement. Don asked if Ed Jordan could do Ross's section if he is unable for district 2 and 7. Ed indicated he would call Ross and coordinate.
- The Milligan Highway Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am, meeting at Happy Valley Elementary School.
- 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.
- NECCU Business Spotlight is scheduled in July at their Johnson City location.
- Highway 321 cleanup tentatively scheduled for July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Blevins Road cleanup tentatively scheduled for August 10<sup>th</sup>. There are still a lot of tires buried in the shoreline.
- Ed Basconi reported we saved ½ pound of seed to distribute to the Roan Mountain Recreation group. Lisa will contact Tom Nizio for wildflower plots at Eric Anderson Park. Ed had contacted Erin Herbert with Appalachian Highlands, but she wanted us to plant trees and do all the work ourselves. He stated that was not the intention of the partnership.

**New Business:**

- Lisa reported that KCCB needs to purchase more giveaway items since we will be getting the reimbursement from Keep America Beautiful. She suggested more pens, ball caps, stickers, or car magnets. **A motion to spend \$500.00 on giveaway items** was made by Lisa, seconded by Mike Simerly, and the **Board approved**.
- Lisa also suggested we order 15 yard signs for the wildflower plots to indicate they are pollinator gardens sponsored by KCCB, Elizabethton Parks & Recreation, etc. A suggestion to add a QR code to our website was made. **A motion to create the pollinator garden signs** was made by Lisa, seconded by Mike Simerly, and **Board approved**.

**Adjournment:**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Lisa Vezzosi, seconded by Ed Jordan, and the **Board approved**. The meeting was adjourned at 12:59pm.

Submitted by Secretary, Lisa Vezzosi.