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

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

July 24, 2024, at Noon

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

**Board Members Absent:** Dave Nanney

**Guests Present:** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

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

**Opening Prayer:** Ed Basconi

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ed Jordan

**Approval of the Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 26, 2024, was made by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Ed Jordan, and unanimously the Board approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Next Board Meeting:**

The next Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

**KCCB Treasurer Report:**

* The June month-end balance is $16,329.10. A deposit of $8,899.82 was made from Keep America Beautiful as our reimbursement grant. Expenditures included $313.50 for Keep America Beautiful dues, $190.00 for pollinator gardens yard signs, and $616.96 for give-away of two types of stickers and custom ink pens.
* Don stated the KAB dues were normally paid by Carter County. However, due to the invoice coming late, the bill was paid to keep KCCB compliant and eligible for next fiscal year’s grant of $10,000.00. Don Hlavaty will submit a request to Carter County to reimburse KCCB.

**Proposed Budget for Next Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**:

* Don distributed a copy of the itemized expenses from our current fiscal year expenditures and budget proposal. This totaled $18,010.00 for next fiscal year. A motion was made to approve the budget by Mike Simerly, 2nd by Ed Jordan, and unanimously the board approved.
* The board discussed possible new projects for the community and schools. We would research new programs with our school contacts.
* Don and Lisa completed the IRS tax form and TN annual report. The TN tax exempt form is current to 2027.

**Review of Affiliate Requirements:**

* Lisa indicated that the annual confidentiality statements are due. Still waiting for statements from Ross Garland and Simon Maddock.

**Review of Previous Events:**

* Mike previously suggested we extend our annual seed project with the Elizabethton Library. The library has a bin with free seeds each year. Lisa delivered the remaining seed packets to the library as a donation from Keep Carter Beautiful.
* KCCB had a booth at the Elizabethton Farmer’s Market on July 16th. We had a limited amount of give-away items and information. We will be having a booth once more for August 20th.
* KCCB had an information booth at the July 4th event. We distributed seed packets, stickers, coloring books, brochures, pencils, and pens. We also distributed tarps. Don provided recycle bins in the park and collected trash during the event.
* The Milligan Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup scheduled for July 20th was canceled due to weather, but Ed Basconi had cleaned on Friday before and collected 2 bags of trash which were picked up by Elizabethton Sanitation. We will finish the clean up on our own and not reschedule. Ed’s time will be entered for TDOT compliance.
* The Northeast Community Credit Union Business Spotlight was held for July at their Johnson City location.

**Proposed Events & Projects:**

* Lisa proposed KCCB have a booth at the Elizabethton Covered Bridge Days Festival. She previously asked Dave if he would give permission as we have done in previous years. Dave agreed and said he appreciated the help with information, lost & found, and first aid duties. The booth would again be located at the front of the park. Don suggested we place our recycle bins throughout the area.
* KCCB will have a booth at the Elizabethton Farmer’s Market August 20th. It is scheduled from 4:00pm-7:00pm.
* The Tarp Give-Away is not yet scheduled. Lisa will contact Chris Schlutter to schedule the event. Don made an informational sheet to distribute with the tarps.
* Hellbenders Outfitters contacted us to participate in a cleanup event on August 11th in partnership with Responsible Stewardship as part of the Meet the Mountains Festival. Payton and Lisa will coordinate this event.
* River Riders Baseball team cleanup is pending a date for their community service event.

**New Business:**

* The board discussed possible tree planting in the Fall versus next Spring to replace dead trees. Ed Basconi trimmed the current trees and identified trees for replacement. We will look for new tree supplier options at Evergreen in Johnson City and in Hampton. Because trees are reimbursable by KAB, we will work with Dave Nanney to identify additional locations along the Linear Trail and other parks. We could also landscape areas in parks or around public buildings, like the new Parks & Recreation Center.
* The board suggested purchasing new trash cans & recycle bins to parks/trails/city locations. It was suggested we buy dual bin units.
* Ed Basconi offered suggestions for school projects like an updated poster presentation about how long it takes for items to decompose in landfills (paper, cardboard, plastic, metal).
* Ed Jordan asked to replace the yard sign at the Mary Patton/Tweetsie Trail plot because it is faded. He asked that we consider getting more metal signs made.
* Melinda Maddock suggested possible purchase of a can/bottle recycle vending machines for cash. However, because there is no deposit for cans/bottles in Tennessee and recycling/sanitation is county run, it seems unfeasible. No one wants to own the process of collection/reimbursement/selling recycles.
* Lisa is investigating T shirt and Polo shirt options and vendors (Boomtown/Pep Screen-printing). Discussion of styles/fabrics/sizes available in men’s and women’s was reviewed. Lisa will review options with vendors.
* Ed Jordan suggested a news article to advertise for new, younger Board members.

**Adjournment:**

* A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Ed Jordan, and the Board approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Submitted by:

Mary Ellen Hlavaty, Secretary