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

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

April 23, 2025, at noon

***Board Members Present:*** Don Hlavaty, Ed Basconi, Ed Jordan, Mike Simerly, and Seth Hice (zoom)

***Board Members Absent:*** Simon & Melinda Maddock, Lisa Vezzosi, Caleb Krebs

***Guests Present:*** Mary Ellen Hlavaty

***Call to Order:*** Don Hlavaty opened the meeting at 12:02 pm. **A quorum was present.** An opening prayer was given by Ed Jordan and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Basconi.

***Approval of today’s agenda:*** A **motion to approve today’s meeting agenda** was made by Ed Jordan seconded by Mike Simerly and **unaminously** **approved.**

***Approval of last month’s meeting minutes*:** A **motion to approve March 26, 2025, meeting minutes** was made by Mike Simerly, seconded by Ed Jordan and **unaminously** **approved.**

***Public Comments:*** None

***Next Board Meeting:***The next KCCB board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at noon in the Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 615 West Elk Avenue, Elizabethton, and available by Zoom.

***KCCB Board Membership – Don Hlavaty***

Ross Garland resigned from the KCCB Board of Directors last month leaving a vacancy.

Lisa Vezzosi said Will Miller is interested in joining the KCCB Board of Directors but was unable to make today’s meeting. Will Miller is with the Carter County Planning and Zoning Department in Storm Management and has participated with and partnered with KCCB on previous cleanup events and projects. Will Miller was invited to attend our next meeting to discuss his interest in joining our organization. The nomination to elect Will Miller to the KCCB board will be discussed at that time. Carter County Storm Management has ~ 5 planned cleanups per year that we can partner with them.

***KCCB Treasurer Report – Don Hlavaty***

* The March 2025 month-end balance was $21,595.95, with revenues of $1851.08 and $9,254.89 in expenditures.
* Revenues included $150.00 in corporate donations (Benevity) and $1701.08 in reimbursement from Keep Tennessee Beautiful for the Keep American Beautiful February Annual Conference in Washinton, D.C. expenses.
* Expenditures included $200.00 for Carter County/Elizabethton Chamber of Commerce annual dues, $1701.08 for the Keep America Beautiful Annual Conference expenses (lodging/mileage), $247.04 for KCCBTN.org website charges, $969.78 for Beautification project supplies (seeds), $120.00 for volunteer incentives (Jersey Mike’s gift cards), $6000.00 KCCB donation to Elizabethton Compassion Center, and $16.99 in office supplies (seed packet stickers). All expenditures are within budget. The remaining expenditures budget is $23,480.46.
* Lisa Vezzosi ordered additional trash/recycle inventory (Garbo grabbers w/KCCB label, Garbo grabber plastic bag holders & also plastic holders with reusable nets) and give-away items (stickers, pens). Keep Tennessee Beautiful sent children’s coloring books and pencils.
* Don Hlavaty submitted the Keep America Beautiful annual dues invoice ($313.50) to Carter County for payment today 4/23/2025.
* The paperwork for 2025-2026 fiscal year funding requests was submitted to both Carter County and the City of Elizabethton. Lisa Vezzosi and Don Hlavaty presented our request to the Carter County Commissioner Finance Committee on March 10th, and we await their final decision. A presentation to the City of Elizabethton Finance Committee will be scheduled when their Finance Committee is ready to discuss the 2025-2026 budgets in May. Budgets are very tight due to Hurricane Helene damage and remediation expenses so funding may be denied for the next fiscal year.

***Review of Previous Events – Don Hlavaty***

* Dave Nanney sent to Lisa Vezzosi the Elizabethton Parks & Recreation Tetrick Center & City Park estimates for restoration & beautification projects. She will meet with the city contractor for final plans/quotes and then submit plans/receipts to KAB & KTnB for 2024-2025 reimbursement approval. If quote/receipts cannot be provided before the deadline, we will submit a quote for replacement picnic tables/trash bins/recycle bins, so we do not miss out on the $10K reimbursement.
* Tennessee Tree Day was held March 29th. Distribution of trees was at Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnson City. We distributed 810 trees ordered by 105 people. The unclaimed trees were given to KCCB. We received 30 tulip poplar and 33 black cherry saplings for future planting. We potted the saplings, and Ed Basconi is keeping them for now – he has given away about half for planting.
* Elizabethton Stormwater Department held the “Tag A Drain Day” event on April 12th. We tagged 39 drains with the “Drains to Stream” decals along E. Elk Avenue. We had 7 people attend and it took about 90 minutes to complete.
* Keep America Beautiful still has its “Retreet Program” that helps communities’ plant native trees and restore tree canopy/green spaces to areas that were destroyed/damaged by natural disasters. The program includes trees, flowers, shrubs and plants to stabilize riverbanks and drainage. Once storm cleanup and remediation are completed by FEMA contractors, we can work with Carter County to develop a plan for re-planting and restoring storm damaged areas.

***Discuss 2025 Proposed Events – Don Hlavaty***

* KCCB annual Indexing Survey is due in May, for June reporting. Everyone has their assignments. Please give Lisa Vezzosi your surveys when completed.
* Pollinator gardens for Elizabethton Parks & Recreation are scheduled for planting at 6:00pm on May 6th and May 7th. We will meet at the McDonald’s parking lot (Broad St. & Lynn Ave.). Gardens will be planted at parks (Cook, Dixon, Mill Race, Elizabethton Parks & Recreation Tetrick Community Center). Seeds were also given to Roan Mtn. Community Park group to plant where they used to have their community garden (they must wait for remediation for future projects). Seeds will also be provided to the Carter County landfill to plant. Seeds will be provided to Sycamore State Park for a pollinator garden next to their building – waiting for them to complete tree removal. We will also plant wildflowers and trees after storm remediation is completed along the Watauga River trail. The park is also planning to re-pave portions of the Linear Trail.
* The Great American Cleanup along the Tweetsie Trail from Lion’s Fields to Downtown is scheduled for May 10th. We will meet at Lion’s field at 10am.
* We need to schedule a date for Milligan Highway Summer Cleanup - scheduled June 14th but need to move to another weekend because of conflict with Summer Park event. A **motion was made to change the date to June 7th** by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Mike Simerly and **approved by members present.**
* KCCB will participate in the Elizabethton Parks & Recreation Summer Concert Series this year. KCCB will be at Elizabethton Parks & Recreation booth in the park and provide booth coverage with KCCB giveaways. We will also provide recycle bins and trash pickup during the events. Coverage assignments will be available at each event for board members/volunteers.
* Covered Bridge Jams – “Bluegrass Jamboree” concert June 14th. Set up at about 4:00pm prior to 6:00pm festival with food trucks.
* Covered Bridge 4th of July Festival – Set up about 11:00am and ending with fireworks at 9:30pm
* Covered Bridge Jams – Rockin on the Doe Festival concert. Set up about 3:00pm.
* Covered Bridge Days Festival from Friday, September 19th through Sunday, September 21st. KCCB will be at Elizabethton Parks & Recreation booth on all three days.
* Projects from Caleb Krebs, Dave Nanney and Seth Hice will be discussed at the next meeting since they are absent.
* Ed Basconi reported that the Elizabethton High School seed project has been completed and brought all the seeds to the meeting. He labeled packages of seeds for use in our pollinator gardens. Students made 300 seed packets and labeled 1000 pre-packaged seed packets. Packets include several varieties of wildflowers. A lunch party was budgeted for the class. A **motion was made for purchase lunch for the students within budget** by Don Hlavaty, seconded by Ed Jordan and **unaminously** **approved.**
* Ed Basconi and Lisa Vezzosi will schedule and deliver lunch with Jessica Hayes at the high school.
* An update on the Carter County signage will be discussed at the next meeting. We are trying to arrange a meeting with Carter County to discuss installation. The signage at both Happy Trails Park and Hershel’s Landing was destroyed and Carter County will need to determine if these signs should be replaced.

***Adjournment:***

* A **motion was made to adjourn the meeting** by Ed Jordan, seconded by Ed Basconi and **unaminously** **approved.** The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

Submitted by: Mary Ellen Hlavaty, Secretary