



Board of Directors Meeting April 21, 2009

Steve introduced Mr. Jack Horner, VP Recycling/ Document Destruction Goodwill Material Recovery Program. Mr. Horner thanked the community for the positive support of their store. He discussed the mission of Goodwill which provides to the 15 counties they serve jobs and job training for disadvantaged workers. In a rural community like Union County, transportation can be a barrier to employment. He explained how the donations given to the store then fund the training programs for workers. Mr. Horner also described other services in Goodwill that employ workers. These include janitorial, document shredding and recycling services that are contracted by businesses, manufacturers and government agencies. He announced the May 1 opening of the Union County Recycling facility adjacent to the Goodwill store and how this site will serve as a model for other rural communities. For more information about available services, contact Mr. Horner at 423-586-6514.

Steve then introduced Ms. Debbie Phipps, Union County WIA Coordinator. Ms. Phipps announced that Union County will be awarded money for the Walters State Summer jobs program to fund 81 positions for a 6-8 week program for youths age 14-24. Thirty percent of these positions must be given to drop outs. The program will provide 32-25 hours per week to participants at a wage rate of \$7.25 per hour. Additionally, participants will be eligible for classroom time to improve basic skill components in reading and math and that this time will also be paid. For students that identified as excelling, a week long, and all expenses paid career camp at Walters State will be offered. This time will be used to explore careers, gain college awareness and will participants will also be paid for attending. Eligibility is for students “at risk” which includes foster children, single parents, and other socio economic limitations. Debbie is seeking businesses that can provide a work place opportunity for these students. For more information about the program, Debbie can be contacted at 992-3061.

Call to order by Steve Thompson, Chairman of the Board @ 12:23 PM.

Members present:, Mayor Lay, , Wayne Goforth, Glenn Crawford, Judy Roe, Steve Thompson, William Von Schipmann, Scott Inklebarger, Sheila Buckner, Kelly Smith, Darlene Wine, and Julie Graham

Members absent: Steve Hill, Dwain Burke, Jeff Cooper, Donna Jones, Tony Barnes, Marilyn Toppins, Rebecca Mills, Anthony Shuler

Visitors present: Debbie Phipps, Jack Horner, Tom Heemstra, Jennipher

Approval of Agenda: Motioned by Wayne; 2nd by Von. Motion approved.

Approval of March minutes: Mayor Lay motioned to accept; Sheila 2nd. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Judy reported a starting balance of \$4646.49 and an ending balance of \$2379.14. Judy noted that this balance included the President's compensation for April. Julie reported that membership fees were coming in. There is only one still outstanding from January; one from March and April was on track. Judy noted that funding is tight and this will be discussed at the ad-hoc planning committee meeting on 4/27. The May statements will be released next week. Wayne moved to accept the treasurer's report and Von 2nd. Motion passed

President's Report: Julie Graham reported on the following: **TVA Prospector:** Julie reported that the changes in the industrial site data base search system for Union County have been submitted to the state. Julie also discussed the new section on Prospector that offers tips for energy efficiency. **SUCCESS Union County:** The program is slated for May 1 (6-9PM) and May 2 (12-3PM). All are encouraged to participate. Since the program organizer, Mr. Heemstra was in attendance, time was allotted at the end of the agenda for him to speak. **Norris Highlands:** Julie reported that the map/ brochure was in progress and that the hope was to have the piece available by May. Julie also reported that Julie had met with Ms. Phipps about the possibility of having the work program students assist in completing a tourism survey. This would be done in each of the Norris Highlands counties and the information would be used to set objectives for the Norris Highlands council, **Blog Status:** Julie reported that due to time constraints with other projects, she had not yet completed the process to bring this live.

Board Action:

Old Business:

Jeff Cooper has stepped down as the Chair of the Membership Committee. Steve will seek someone who can serve in this capacity.

Steve reported that he had met with 2 businesses who had previously offered to house the Chamber. Rent and utilities are the chamber's largest expense on a monthly basis. Another business has tentatively stepped forward, but Steve will continue to investigate opportunities and report back at a later time.

New Business:

Committee Reports: Strategic Planning: Steve discussed the planning committee's first session. He talked about the need for the Chamber to be very visible in the community with our businesses and with the government. He also discussed some of the suggestions regarding better funding of the Chamber and one of those suggestions including a "pay for performance" type agreement with the County. This group is scheduled to meet again and Steve will report at the next Board meeting. Steve asked that all committees be prepared to report at least quarterly and to report at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Julie was granted a scholarship to attend a week long economic development program in Nashville for the week of May 4. Von agreed to volunteer to provide coverage for some days, so that the Chamber will not be closed for the entire week.

Announcements:

Attention to the Commercial Realtors: The EDETA is hosting workshops for commercial realtors. For more information, contact Julie at 992-2811

The youth leadership class, YLUC, will be partnering with KUBC for a lake cleanup at the HWY 33 bridge area on Saturday, April 25 at 9AM to be followed with a picnic at Beach Island Resort Marina at 1:30PM. This is their large community project and they will be contacting other groups to assist. Ned, Nancy and Bubba, of Beach Island Resort Marina, have agreed to assist with this community project.

The Library has partnered with the TEL, Tennessee Electronic Library, to provide access to the Gale Database Collection, the TN Newspaper Collection, the HeritageQuest Online, and the LearningExpress Library. Some of the tools now available to the community include practice ACT tests, GRE tests and CDL tests. This is an excellent resource for all of our citizens and congratulations to Chantay Collins for bringing this to Union County.

Bluegrass Festival in Luttrell City Park on Saturday, June 20 from 11AM- 8PM.

Goodwill Recycling Open House: Friday, May 1 @ 11AM at the site adjacent to the Goodwill store.

Connected TN meeting on May 11 @ 3PM at the Maynardville Senior Center. All persons that want high speed in all of the neighborhoods in Union County are encouraged to attend.

ACT testing: Mr. Goforth announced that beginning in the upcoming school calendar, that all juniors will be required to take the ACT exams.

Walters State Classes for Fall 2009: Mr. Goforth announced that Walters State will provide college evening classes in Union County beginning in the fall. These classes are open to all adults. This is in addition to the programs that already exist within the high school. There will be an announcement on April 28, 2009 at 4PM in the high school library.

County Budget and Finance Committee will hold a special session on 4/28 at the County Court House in the large court room to discuss the building of schools and financing options will be available to review. Interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Success Union County is scheduled for May 1 and 2 at the High School. This is an important opportunity to network within the business, education and community organizations. Tom Heemstra discussed that he is partnering with Impact Associates to gain important information about Union County and that SUCCESS will serve as a model for additional programming.

UCBPA golf tournament to benefit scholarships is scheduled for Friday, April 24 at 9AM at Woodlake CC. For more information, contact Jennifer Shipley or Toby Strickland.

Meeting adjourned at 1:04PM. Sheila motioned and Wayne 2nd.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 @12N