

Land of Sky Regional Council
May 24, 2017
Regular Meeting



Please mute all electronic devices, including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and recorders. Also, Delegates are requested to state their names when moving on orders of business. Thank you!

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Invocation
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable
- IX. Approval of Minutes from the April Regular Meeting
- X. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items
 - A. April FY2017 Treasurer's Report
- XI. Presentations/Recognition
 - A. May is Older Americans Month – Charles Dickens, Chairman- Regional Advisory Council on Aging
 - B. Mars Hill University and Foster Grandparent Program Collaboration – Stacy Friesland, Foster Grandparents Program Coordinator
- XII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business
 - A. Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget Presentation – Justin Hembree, Executive Director
- XIV. Executive Director's Report
 - A. 2nd Annual BBQ & Open House on July 26th
- XIV. Important Dates
- XV. Adjournment



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** April Board of Delegates Meeting Minutes
- Item Number:** IX. Approval of Minutes from the April Regular Meeting
- Responsible Party:** Zia Rifkin, Administrative Services
- Attachment(s):** Minutes from the meeting of April 2017
- Background:** Attached is the April 2017 Board of Delegates meeting minutes
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of the April meeting minutes.
- Suggested Motion(s):** Move to approve the April meeting minutes as submitted

Meeting of
Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates
April 26, 2017

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – George Goosmann called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. He thanked Mayor Barbara Volk for the beautiful setting provided for today's meeting.
- II. Invocation - Charles Dickens gave the invocation.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance - All stood as George Goosmann led the Delegates in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. Roll Call – Justin Hembree called the roll. The following members were present: Robert Pressley, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Jonathan Kanipe, Larry Harris, Albert Gooch, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Carey O'Cain, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Shelia Norman, Brenda Mills, John Mitchell, and Charles Dickens. The following guests were present: April Riddle and Freddie Harrill. Justin Hembree announced there was a quorum present to conduct business.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda –
- VI. Public Comment - The public comment period opened. No one made any public comments.
- VII. Recognition of Special Guests – George Goosmann recognized Mayor Volk and thanked her for hosting today's meeting in Hendersonville. He also recognized April Riddle, Deputy Insurance Commissioner for the Western Region and Freddie Harrill with Martin-McGill/McGill Associates.
- VIII. Chairman's Comments and Roundtable – George Goosmann - Shared that he is chairing the meeting today as Dona Mennella had to resign her position with the Town of Laurel Park (due to health reasons). Mayor O'Cain, of Laurel Park, shared that Dona is doing better and missed a lot by the Town. Jonathan Kanipe – Shared that the Town of Biltmore Forest will host a reception in May to honor the Police Chief who is retiring. Bob Davy – Shared that May 6th is the budget retreat for the Town of Fletcher and no increases in taxes are expected. The Town is also constructing two buildings and hopes to have those done soon. The Highway 25 Corridor Improvement project will be fully designed by late spring and construction will start later this year. The project will define the Town and slow down traffic. Lastly, he shared that the Easter egg hunt drew many folks. Albert Gooch – Shared that the Village of Flat Rock is installing electric car charging stations at City Hall. He also shared that the Park is under construction and work has been finished on the trail. Barbara Volk– Shared that the City of Hendersonville uses the room where today's meeting is taking place, for large meetings in the City. She also shared that the Bears are coming back to town on May 12th and Rhythm and Brews will start up for the year on May 18th. There is many things happening in Hendersonville and regarding economic development, the City is negotiating with developers who plan to put a 54-room hotel in the old building along with other commercial enterprises. Robert Pressley – Shared that Buncombe County is involved in the budget process. April Riddle – Shared that State Insurance Commissioner, Mike Causey, was in Hendersonville on Monday to visit the fire stations. John Mitchell – Shared that Henderson County is involved in the budget process. The County is also planning its July 4th celebration. He shared also that there are a number of construction projects moving forward in the County, including the new high school and the new early college. In addition, the County's new Emergency Management Center is planned for the soon-to-be-closed Balfour site. The Commission is also planning new elementary schools and the Commissioners have approved an application for greenways in the county, which will include feasibility studies. Charles Dickens – Shared that the Regional Advisory Council on Aging met in Marshall on the A-B Tech campus in March. Notable of the comments heard at that meeting were very impressive reports on the nutrition sites and on bringing a variety of activities to seniors through the nutrition program. He shared there is also a focus on the high level of community in the county of people

helping each other. Shelia Norman – Shared that in Transylvania County, Rise & Shine/Neighbors in Ministry's fundraiser is sold out! She offered a big thanks to everyone who plans to attend. The fundraiser happens April 29th at the Brevard Music Center and 175 folks are expected to attend. Carey O'Cain – Shared that with Dona Mennella's resignation from the Town of Laurel Park, he is stepping into the primary delegate position with LOSRC. He also shared that there will be no tax increase as part of the Town's budget process. The Town is also working with the transportation folks on the highway widening. He mentioned that work on the nature trail should be complete by the end of the year. The Town will also host a concert at Jump-Off Rock on Saturday, May 27th as part of its Memorial Day celebrations and a bicycle race will be held that Sunday. Gwen Wisler – Shared that the City of Asheville is working on the budget and last week a new greenway opened near New Belgium. Brenda Mills – Shared that there was a tremendous turnout for the City of Asheville's Government/Business Connect event that included a significant number of ethnic minorities attending or there as exhibitors. The event was very helpful to folks in the community who want to do public contracting. Outreach will begin soon for next year's event. Larry Harris – Shared that the Town of Black Mountain is involved in the budget process and will be hiring a new police chief. He also shared that the Town Manager and engineers are working on the Avadim business expansion. Carol Hughes Architects will be appearing before the Planning Board at the beginning of May. He also shared that regarding the grants for water and sewer- one-half of those are in place. Avadim's new location, adjacent to the Town will eventually bring over 500 jobs to the region. Lastly, he shared that on May 3rd, Black Mountain is hosting a League of Counties workshop at the Lakeview Center.

- IX. Approval of Minutes from the February and March Regular Meetings– The February and March minutes were provided prior to the meeting and in the agenda packet (March only). Bob Davy moved to approve the February and March minutes as submitted. John Mitchell seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.
- X. Annual Meeting –
- A. Nomination and Election of 2017/18 Council Officers and Executive Committee – Justin Hembree shared that new Officers and Executive Committee members would serve until at least March 2018 and he introduced the slate of Officers' and Executive Committee membership.
- Nominations for Officers' Slate and Executive Committee:
- Chair – Larry Harris
Vice Chair – Wayne Brigman
Secretary – Patrick Fitzsimmons
Treasurer – Mike Hawkins
Past Chair – George Goosmann
County Delegate – John Mitchell
Municipal Delegate – Open/Seeking Nominations
Aging/Volunteer Services Delegate – Charles Dickens
At-Large Representative – Shelia Norman
- Justin Hembree shared that nominations are welcome for the Municipal Delegate position on the Executive Committee. He made the recommendation that the slate be approved as presented recognizing that the open seat will need to be filled as soon as possible. He communicated that the Nominating Committee consisted of himself and two past chairs: George Goosmann and Bob Davy, who worked together to develop the recommendations for the slate.
- George Goosmann opened the floor for nominations. No nominations came from the floor.
- Jonathan Kanipe moved to accept the recommended Slate of Officers and Executive Committee members. Albert Gooch seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.
- Bob Davy shared that being a member of the Executive Committee only adds one additional hour to the time commitment for Board duties and he encouraged delegates to volunteer.

Justin Hembree agreed and added that once in a while, the Executive Committee is required to hold public hearings (necessitated by certain grants) but those are often conducted by phone and Executive Committee members can attend remotely with no need to come to the office.

Chairman Harris thanked George Goosmann for chairing the meeting until the election was held and the meeting continued with him presiding.

- XI. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – The Consent Agenda items, consisting of Item A. March FY 2017 Treasurer’s Report was presented for consideration. Bob Davy moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Jonathan Kanipe seconded and the motions carried without further discussion.
- XII. Presentations/Recognition -
- A. Workforce Development Initiative: Backpacks to Briefcases – Nathan Ramsey, Director of Workforce Development shared that Backpacks to Briefcases (B2B) is a program that the Mountain Area Workforce Development Board (MAWDB) recently started (B2B began in the Triangle Area with a major grant from Duke Energy) to assist recent college graduates find self-sufficient employment. The initiative offers a 10-12 week internship for folks who have recently completed a bachelor’s degree and meet income eligibility guidelines. Host employers are not obligated to retain the intern in employment beyond the length of the internship. He shared how the initiative developed in the region and in December 2016, MAWDB applied for additional funding from NC Commerce/Division of Workforce Solutions, which awarded \$140,000 in Contingency funding. Collaborating partners for B2B include A-B Tech, BRCC, UNCA, WCU, etc. The community colleges have really stepped up to make this initiative happen, even designing a soft skills course which potential interns are required to attend. He shared that he was overwhelmed by the response to the initiative- many employers have signed up to host at least one intern and in some cases, multiple interns. Employers are excited about the opportunity to host an intern. The internships represent many varied jobs across multiple employment sectors. Over 95% of companies who have responded to the initiative have communicated that if they were pleased with the work, they would absolutely hire the intern once the internship was over. About 36 of the recent college graduates and many of the host employers participated in Talent Jam- College Edition held last week at Highland Brewery. The Kaufmann Foundation in conjunction with A-B Tech began Talent Jam a couple of years ago. Nathan Ramsey explained the “pitch” made by graduates of why they have talent and then employers would pitch why they need talent. About 15 matches (and counting) have been made so far for B2B. The companies seem excited and MAWDB staff are working through the onboarding process right now. Nathan Ramsey shared that the reality is if someone graduates with a degree in engineering or healthcare, there is no shortage of jobs for those folks. He noted that people from all sorts of backgrounds and degrees have gotten involved in the B2B initiative. He invited organizations interested in having an intern to contact him.
- Discussion occurred about where the funding for the \$12 an hour wage is coming from and it was shared that those funds are coming through MAWDB. Interns will be employees of the colleges who will pay their salaries and MAWDB will reimburse that expense to the colleges through their contracts to provide workforce development services to folks in the region. Business interest in the initiative has been truly exciting as this might lead to finding the talent that these employers need. Both the intern and the employer get to decide if the internship is a good fit. Nathan Ramsey communicated that the role of MAWDB is to build those opportunities and relationships with training providers, business, and folks in the communities we serve. He added that A-B Tech and BRCC both offer internships (work experience) for college students in curriculum programs. However, there is nothing available for alumni who have graduated and not found employment. We do not want those folks to leave our community because they have education and talent.
- XIII. Old Business
- XIII. New Business –

XIV. Executive Director's Report –

- A. Presentations at LOSRC Meetings - Justin Hembree thanked Nathan Ramsey for the Backpacks to Briefcases presentation and for turning it into a successful program for the LOSRC region to serve that population just graduating college to gain valuable work experience. He encouraged delegates to share ideas with administrative staff about presentations for board meetings. The desire is to have presentations that are relevant to the board and to keep the meetings within the hour time slot. In order to make that happen, the Executive Committee has taken on more responsibility.
- B. Request for Nominations or Volunteers to The Forum – Justin Hembree shared that initially The Forum developed through collaboration with the NC League of Municipalities and the NC Association of Regional Councils. The Forum has changed a lot since its inception and is currently made up of one elected official from each county. At most, The Forum meets four times a year and meetings are usually held in Raleigh, but meeting sites can vary. Most of the work of this group relates to advocacy and educating the General Assembly (GA) about issues at the regional level. Elected officials really have the ability to hold that esteem with members of the GA. He encouraged Delegates who may be interested in attending meetings, to let him know. He also encouraged the nomination of other elected officials in the region if a Delegate thought they would be interested in becoming part of The Forum. The meetings last a half day on Friday with a dinner the previous (Thursday) night.

XV. Important Dates – The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, May 24, 2017. The meeting will be held at the offices of Land of Sky Regional Council. The proposed FY 17/18 budget will be presented. Justin Hembree reminded everyone that there is no regularly scheduled board meeting in July. The second annual LOSRC BBQ & Open House will be held that fourth Wednesday (the 26th) in July.

XIV. Adjournment – Chairman Harris adjourned the meeting.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** April FY2017 Treasurer's Report
- Item Number:** XI. Consent Agenda, Item A
- Responsible Party:** Vickie Thomas, Finance Director
- Attachment(s):** April FY2017 Treasurer's Report (Available at Meeting)
- Background:** Attached is the April FY2017 Treasurer's Report. The report outlines year-to-date revenues and expenditures. Also included is cash balance information, fund balance reporting, and member dues information.
- Staff Recommendation:** Recommend acceptance of April's FY2017 Treasurer's Report.
- Suggested Motion(s):** The Treasurer's Report, if not pulled, will be accepted as part of the motion to approve the consent agenda.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

- Subject:** May is Older Americans Month
- Item Number:** XI. Presentations/Recognition; Item A.
- Responsible Party:** Charles Dickens, Chairman, Regional Aging Advisory Council
LeeAnne Tucker, Director of Aging and Volunteer Services
- Attachment(s):** Older Americans Month Proclamation
- Background:** In 1963, the United States began to acknowledge the contributions of older people by using the month of May to celebrate Older Americans Month (OAM). Led by the Administration for Community Living, the annual observance offers the opportunity to learn about, support, and celebrate our nation's older citizens. This year's theme, "Blaze a Trail," emphasizes the ways older adults are reinventing themselves through new work and new passions, engaging their communities, and blazing a trail of positive impact on the lives of people of *all* ages.
- The Area Agency on Aging at Land of Sky Regional Council recognizes Older American Month every day but particularly each year during the month of May. Staff encourages every resident within Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties to honor older adults and serve and support them as powerful and vital individuals who greatly contribute to the community.
- <http://oam.acl.gov/>
- Staff Recommendation:** Chairman signature of proclamation.
- Suggested Motion(s):** None.



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Mars Hill University and Foster Grandparent Program Collaboration

Item Number: XI. Presentations/Recognition: Item A.

Responsible Party: Stacy Friesland

Attachment(s):

Background: Mars Hill professor Meredith Hammond is present at today's Council meeting in honor of Older American's month to give a short 10 minute presentation to share her experience with a collaboration between Foster Grandparent volunteers and her students' project documenting the volunteers' life story. She is going to talk about the importance from a professor's standpoint and how beneficial the experience was from the student's perspective. Mars Hill student Brittany Sherlin will also be attending to share her personal experience.

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Suggested Motion(s): N/A



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Annual Operating Budget Presentation

Item Number: XIII. New Business, Item A.

Responsible Party: Justin Hembree, Executive Director

Attachment(s): Available at Meeting

Background: Per requirements of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act, a balanced budget ordinance must be adopted prior to July 1 of the applicable fiscal year. This presentation of the Annual Operating Budget for FY 2017/2018 initiates the Board's budgetary process for Land of Sky Regional Council

Staff Recommendation: N/A

Suggested Motion(s): N/A



BOARD OF DELEGATES AGENDA ITEM

Subject: Executive Director's Report

Item Number: XIII. Executive Director's Report

Responsible Party: Justin Hembree, Executive Director

Attachment(s):

Background: The following items will be presented as part of the Executive Director's Report:

A. 2nd Annual BBQ & Open House on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 beginning at 12:00pm.

Staff Recommendation: N/A.

Suggested Motion(s): N/A