

**Meeting of  
Land-of-Sky Regional Council  
April 23, 2014**

**MINUTES**

- I. Call-to-Order – George Goosmann called the meeting to order.
- II. Invocation – Wayne Brigman
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Roll Call – Mike Hawkins called the roll and the following members were present: Wayne Brigman, Mike Hawkins, Gwen Wisler, George Goosmann, Ryan Stone, Larry Harris, Anne Coletta, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, Dona Mennella, Letta Jean Taylor, Gene Knoefel, Charles Dickens, Kathe Harris, Mark Burrows, George Morosani, and Brenda Mills. Other guests included; Charlie Franck and Stephanie Wallace of Habitat for Humanity, Carrie Miller and Phil Harris of the City of Brevard Police Department, Gaylyn Justice of TD Bank, Lee Howard of Transylvania COA, Kathy Kyle, Steve Kirkland and Gene Sparks of the Blue Ridge Literacy Council, Claudia Nix of Liberty Bicycles and Blue Ridge Bike Club, Bill Woods, Terry Randolph, Calvin Titus, Dorothy Crawford, John Crawford, Barb Mee, Woody Dychi, Carolynn Cohran, and Kathryn Hightower.
- V. Modification and Approval of Agenda - Mark Burrows made a motion to approve the agenda with no modifications and George Morosani seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- VI. Kathleen Godwin Cole Award Ceremony - George Goosmann welcomed all of the nominees to the meeting. LeeAnne Tucker introduced Kathe Harris, the Chair of the Senior Volunteer Services Advisory Council. Kathe Harris discussed what the Kathleen Godwin Cole Award represents, and stated the importance of giving respects to the volunteers who are nominated to receive this award each year. This year, there were more nominees than ever before. This year's recipient of the Kathleen Godwin Cole Award was Carolynn Cohran.
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Recognition of Special Guests
- IX. Chairman's Comments & Roundtable – George Goosmann shared that Biltmore Forest is continuing their search for a new Town Administrator. Nelson Smith's last day is August 30<sup>th</sup>, and they are hoping to have someone on board by July 1. Charlie Landreth discussed Brevard's White Squirrel Festival, on Memorial Day Weekend. The music venue will be expanded make the Festival a bigger, better event. Bob Davy shared that Fletcher's Town Hall will be completed and open next month. In honor of the Town Hall's completion, Fletcher is planning to have a special presentation of a full length documentary that was filmed in Fletcher about the Feed and Seed Bluegrass Music Hall. Dona Mennella discussed that work is still ongoing at Rhododendron Lake Park in Laurel Park. Laurel Park's budget retreat is this coming Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Gene Knoefel shared that Weaverville has been focused on their budget retreat for the past several weeks. Letta Jean Taylor discussed Montreat's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Native Plant Sale, which will include educational booths set up in Platt Park this Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Montreat has been interviewing architects to plan the construction of a new Town Hall. Brenda Mills shared that Asheville is being taken over by MoogFest, which includes an array of music, educational opportunities and many entertaining booths. Anne Coletta discussed that Flat Rock opened their perimeter trail in conjunction with Earth Day with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Students from Flat Rock Middle School planted a tree in the park during the ceremony. Flat Rock's Park and Recreational Foundation have hired a new Director of Development, Maurene Adams. Mark Burrows shared that Carolina West is a

Regional Economic Development group and is inviting all elected officials to participate in a conversation with seven manufacturers representing each of the Carolina West Counties occurring on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Biltmore Park Hilton. Charles Dickens discussed that the Advisory Council of Aging met in Madison County at the new Mars Hill Library. The Council had a presentation about the various features available in Mars Hill, including a discussion with Ray Roth about the background of Mars Hill University. The Council was delighted with the library and very happy to be in Madison County. Kathe Harris shared that May is Older Americans Month and there will be a meeting in Transylvania County on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the County Library and will include vendors and community agencies, and the Annual Century Club Tea will take place on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Gwen Wisler also discussed MoogFest in Asheville and encouraged all to attend. Asheville City Schools have hired a new Superintendent and are excited to introduce Pamela Baldwin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Asheville has also hired a new City Attorney and City Manager. The City of Asheville has also adopted a graffiti ordinance as an attempt to make a dent in the vandalism throughout the City. Barbara Volk discussed the Arbor Day Celebration in Hendersonville on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014. One of the schools will help plant a tree and put on an Arbor Day program. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, the bears come out of hibernation in Hendersonville and stay until October. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the Rhythm and Blues Festival will start in Hendersonville and includes free music, beer, and wine, and is being extended until September. On May 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, Hendersonville will host their Garden Jubilee on Main Street, which will include over 200 vendors to highlight summer plants. Wayne Brigman shared that Madison County's Courthouse is still under construction and is making good progress. The County is also in the process of finalizing plans for a bicycle race that will go up River Road (251) through the county and back.

- X. Approval of Minutes from the March Regular Meeting– March Council meeting minutes were made available at the meeting. Mark Burrows made a motion to approve the minutes and Brenda Mills seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
  
- XI. Consideration and Approval of Consent Agenda Items – Including: A. March FY 2013-14 Treasurer's Report and B. Budget Amendment #4. Kathe Harris made a motion to accept the consent items and Letta Jean Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
  
- XII. Presentations/Recognition –
  - A. Senior Tarheel Legislature/Older American's Month – Charles Dickens discussed the Proclamation for Older American's Month and stated that it had been accepted and signed by the Chairman, George Goosmann. Mr. Dickens expressed his eagerness and appreciation for the support received from Land of Sky and the Area Agency on Aging. Mr. Dickens has been reappointed to the Senior Tarheel Legislature (STHL) every two years since 2005 and is retiring this year to enable another person to have the experience. The STHL's mission is to inform and education older adults about the general assembly and involve them in understanding the issues and advocacy related to those issues. The STHL also assesses the legislative needs of older adults by convening a Forum modeling the General Assembly. Mr. Dickens explained several ways that the STHL impacts Land of Sky, including: HCCBG funding utilized to provide services to seniors and senior centers. Some of the current priorities of the STHL involves the under funding of Project C.A.R.E and increasing the ratio of CNAs to residents in nursing homes, both of which may be helpful to Land of Sky ombudsmen. These will also help support Adult Protected Services (APS) to minimize abuse and neglect in care facilities.
  - B. Brownfields Program – Kate O'Hara addressed Council regarding the FY15 application process for the Brownfields Program. Ms. O'Hara mentioned that assessment grants will be open in the fall and may be used to identify and prioritize. Phase II assessments may be used to gain bank financing, for instance, revolving loan funds (RFL), as utilized in the Eagle/Market Street restoration. Ms. O'Hara urged the Council to consider how the Brownfields program can encourage economic development throughout the region.
  
- XIII. Old Business –

XIV. New Business –

- A. APEX Technical Service Contract - Josh King discussed how Land of Sky Regional Council was selected as a subcontractor to APEX Companies on a Brownfields project for the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments. The initial proposal included services rendered by Land of Sky through September 30, 2014 for a contract amount of \$9500. Contract addendums may include varying dollar amounts. Mr. King requested authorization from the Board for the Executive Director to execute this contract. George Morosani made a motion to approve this proposal and Gene Knoefel seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- B. Appalachian Regional Commission Grant Application – Josh King presented a proposal enabling Land of Sky, partnered with Workforce Development, to seek additional funding for the French Broad River MPO from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Funding will be used to implement the Transportation Demand Management Study (TDM) that the MPO completed in 2013. The grant pre-application is going to the Appalachian Regional Commission to cover the match Land of Sky and the FBRMPO need to start a carpool service and begin working with local businesses on transportation options for their employees. Details about services to-be implemented are available at <http://www.fbrmpo.org/tdm>. Mr. King requested authorization from the Board for Land of Sky staff to submit the Appalachian Regional Commission grant pre-application and explore additional sources for match funds. Gene Knoefel made a motion to accept this proposal, which was seconded by Wayne Brigman. The motion as carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- C. Audit Contract Approval - Justin Hembree introduced Peggy Barnes, who sought approval for an audit contract. Ms. Barnes stated that the qualifications with Elizabeth Keel, LLC were very good and cost effective. The annual audit was previously reviewed by the Audit Committee and no motion was required. The Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendations resulting from the annual audit.

XV. Executive Director's Report –

- A. August and September Meeting Dates – Justin Hembree requested that meetings in August and September be moved up by one week. The August meeting will take place on August 20th and the September meeting will take place on September 17th. This proposal will be included on the May Council Agenda.
- B. Carolina West Reception – Mr. Hembree encouraged the Board to attend the Carolina West meeting next Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

- XVI. Adjournment – Mark Burrows moved to adjourn the meeting and George Morosani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned without further discussion.