

Carbon County Partners for Progress

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Meeting Notes of March 19, 2010

Present: Elissa Thorne, Wayne Nothstein, George Ashman, Cyndi Zimmerman, Susan Tyler, Debra Youngfelt, Pat Sasserath, George Wells, Dawn Ferrante, Jamie Drake, Jeanne Miller, Ron Blisard, Barbara Franzosa

President Elissa Thorne called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

Treasurer's Report: Joe Guardiani unable to attend.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of 2/19/10 were accepted on a motion by Ron Blisard; 2nd: by Susan Tyler; motion passed with the correction on Larissa Kimmel's name.

Correspondence: email from Larissa Kimmel

Health & Human Services: Debra Youngfelt reported on the March workshop on expanding the dental van services to adults and to other areas. Plan partner with school districts in Monroe county and 2 SD in Schuylkill County now that law has passed expanding the functions of the dental hygienist; possibility of weekend use- get parents in Monroe Co to bring their children to the dental van They are also working on sustainability for the van. Human Services Day is coming up in Harrisburg; Drug and Alcohol is being cut; Carbon Co is rated in the low 50s on health and welfare.

Chamber of Commerce: Elissa announced that Michael Heery will be leaving in April. Cameo is gone. The board is revisioning the organization and programs are being adopted by the Board members. Elissa Thorne and Ann Pilcher adopted Leadership Carbon. The Expo is going on in April, and The Source will be published. Dave Althouse is the president of the board. Ralph Cortazzo is helping out daily in the Chamber office.

Business/Education: Cyndi Zimmerman reported that presentations are being made in the local school districts on soft skills during the PSSA testing. The Business/Ed Partnership website is on-line at www.ccbep.org The board is meeting next week and is working on partnering with organizations to bring them into schools. Fifth and sixth graders are visiting CCTI after school to learn about critical careers. A student group built a lemonade stand complete with a business plan. Cyndi will find out if they can use it at public events.

Family Collaborative: Jeanne Miller's committee is going after a stimulus grant for the family center to be based in the schools; a bridge between schools, businesses, and health care.

Larissa Kimmel of Family Promise is working on a family center where the homeless can go during the day to take care of their personal affairs; Barbara will contact her to speak at the April meeting. The Inter-agency Council is still planning to hold the Legislative Breakfast in April; have not gotten a date from Keith McCall; Cheri Santore will email all organizations. Jeanne noted that 3 school districts get reimbursed for nutritional program in SHINE; they are still trying to add Palmerton and Weatherly SDs to the SHINE program.

Economic & Heritage Development & Community Foundation: Dawn Ferrante is coordinating a workshop on the Entrepreneurial League System(ELS) on April 16th from 2-4PM at the new Kovatch Training Facility in Nesquehoning. The program creators, Tom Lyons and Gregg Lichtenstein will both be attending to provide an overview of the program and answer your questions and discuss how this program is being successfully implemented in other regions of the country.

Palmerton West Development to take 10 years; a high tech office developer is interested.

WIRE Robotics Competition- George Ashman attended at the Weatherly Middle School gym on March 6th; a large gathering with students working as teams on great projects; they are possible candidates for future entrepreneurs.

Solar Farm-Ron Blisard reported that they have not broken ground yet; he will look into getting John Curtis as our speaker for June.

Barbara Franzosa reported that the Community Foundation Committee held its 2nd meeting on Feb 10th and started working on a mission statement and a visioning statement; what we want to accomplish and how we plan to get there.

Leadership Carbon: The 2010 class will attend our May meeting to talk about their project. Their graduation is May 13th at the Blue Ridge Country Club at 5:30PM. We are all invited to attend.

Community Brochure: Elissa asked that groups provide their information including pictures as soon as possible.

Increasing our attendance: Barbara will create an article for the Times News and other news sources like Blue Mountain Moments, What's Happening in Carbon Co, and send it to Elissa who will add a tag line. Elissa will get a list of all LC graduates and Barbara will add them to our mailing list.

Next Meeting-April 16th at LCCC Nesquehoning Campus at 8:30AM

Meeting adjourned at 9:30AM on a motion by George Ashman; 2nd Susan Tyler