

Carbon County Partners for Progress

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Meeting Notes of September 18, 2009

Present: Wayne Nothstein, George Ashman, Ron Blisard, Peter Kern, Pat Reilly, Jeanne Miller, Debra Youngfelt, Tony Pondish, Steve Kew-Goodale, Jim Kraky, Joe Tomaselli, Joe Guardiani, Barbara Franzosa

Vice-President Peter Kern welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Joe Guardiani reported that the 990 Short has been filed and the Financial Statements for years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007 were prepared by Francis X Mullane, Inc, CPA . Joe provided the GL expenditures YTD and the checking account balances for review. Move to accept the treasurer's report: R Blisard 2nd: G Ashman Motion Carried.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of 8/21/09 were accepted on a motion by P Kern; 2nd: R Blisard

Economic & Heritage Development & Community Foundation: Peter Kern reported that he is researching how a community foundation could be structured; who will run it. Pat Reilly confirmed that Mauch Chunk Trust would be willing to help the foundation while it is in the accumulation phase which could be up to 5 year;, they would donate their time. Peter stated that the first step of a free-standing foundation would be to create the document; it is developed under strict government guidelines. The option is still on the table for us to be under the umbrella of an existing foundation, such as Lehigh Valley or Luzerne Foundations.

Education and Workforce: Jim Kraky reported that the Business-Education Partnership received a \$28,000 grant to get up and running. They are looking for a member from the business community for the executive committee. A request was made to have a job description prepared for this position. They are hosting a breakfast on December 10th.

Stephen Kew-Goodale reported on a great number of new courses for young adults and adults at the Weatherly Institute of Robotics & Engineering(WIRE) for this school year. Please go to the document library section of our PFP website to see all the details of these excellent courses that encourage an interest in the math and science fields. Steve also mentioned that if anyone is interested in developing technologies to let him know. Some of these courses are offered as a free scholarship to unemployed adults looking to change careers.

Tony Pondish reported that the state budget crisis has caused a reduction in the GED classes at CCTI; 70 in the GED program this year when normally they serve 150 students. CCTI also now has a Pre-Apprenticeship Initiative for Carbon County Seniors interested in going into any of the construction trades. This 130 hour program prepares them to take and pass the apprenticeship entrance exam. The new addition/renovation to CCTI has begun and is scheduled for completion, August of 2011.

Family Collaborative: Jeanne Miller reported that LCCC and Carbon County Seniors worked together to create a book and a dvd titled "The SHINE Victory Garden," on the importance of quality after-school and early childhood programs. She again reminded us not to miss the Red Carpet Premier, at no cost, to show the dvd to the public on October 22, 2009 at 5PM in the Panther Valley High School Auditorium. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate this unique project developed in Carbon County.

SHINE received a Kellogg Planning Grant to research our SHINE After School program as a State and National model laboratory for training education majors. Jeanne says they are looking to trademark the SHINE program. Jeanne asked if Partners could give a formal endorsement of the SHINE model to be used as a template for teacher pre-service for other communities.

On funding issues, Jeanne reported that *Right from the Start* is looking for another grant and that SHINE lost a 3rd year grant from PCCD, so Jeanne and Mrs James Rhoades are going out looking for other funding monies.

Some SHINE results: Long-term 2006-2007, children in the program 2-3 years are showing 73% proficient in the 5th grade PSSA test scorings this year. SHINE parents have a 74% participation in continuing ed, GED, and other courses this year.

Health & Human Services: The dental van is entering its 5th year of service to anyone on Medicaid and it accepts 2 of the 4 CHIP plans. PR will be done on it.

Marketing & PR: We need to do PR on SHINE and the Dental Van, and highlight some grassroots programs. Peter Kern will find out who to approach at the Times-News.

Leadership Carbon: There are 9 people in the program. Cameo Semasek at the Chamber has been handling it, but has no time to attend the programs. Wayne Nothstein, Elissa Thorne, and Michael Heery met and feel they need someone to run the program. Michael Heery has been asked by the steering committee how he plans to run it going forward w/o replacing Kristin. Jim Kraky offered Kristin's help to get LC on its feet. Jeanne Miller suggested there is a need for 1 person to be focused on the objectives of what needs to be done.

New Business: none

Next Meeting is Friday October 16th at 8:30 AM at LCCC Nesquehoning Campus

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30AM Notes respectfully submitted by Barbara Franzosa