

MEETING NOTES
CARBON COUNTY PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS
JUNE 19, 2009

Present: Susan Tyler, Amanda Sandlin (Times-News), Judy Hoppes, Bernetta Franz, Peter Kern, Caylan Chanwik, George Ashman, Wayne Nothstein, Dawn Ferrante, Elissa Thorne, Doug Makafka, Jamie Drake, Steve Kew-Goodale, Joe Tomaselli, Dorian Roffe-Hammond, Debra Youngfelt, George Wells and Barbara Franzosa. President Elissa Thorne welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

Treasurer's report: none in Joe Guardiani's absence. Elissa mentioned there were expenditures for the published report, ads, and the website.

Correspondence: Received a letter from Kristin Simmons that effective 6/18/09, she would no longer be able to be secretary for PFP as she was taking a full time job with Lehigh School District. Motion to accept her resignation with regret, by Bernetta Frantz; second by Wayne Nothstein. Motion carried. The Chamber of Commerce is in the process of writing a job description for Director of Leadership Carbon, the part-time position that Kristin is also leaving.

Motion to make Barbara Franzosa the secretary by Peter Kern; second by Bernetta Frantz. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes from May 15, 2009 with one correction made by Bernetta Frantz; second by Susan Tyler. Motion carried. Correction is that PFP will not meet in July, but we will meet on Fri, Aug 21. It will be our speaker meeting. Dawn Ferrante the director of Carbon County's Economic Development office will be the speaker. Elissa Thorne explained that we can all now read the minutes at our new website, www.carboncountypartners.org

Old Business:

Carbon County Child & Family Collaborative: Wayne Nothstein is worried about how funding is being cut at the state level.

Community Foundation: Peter Kern has been in touch with two foundations in Hazleton, the Schuylkill Chamber Foundation and the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation. He is finding that the Lehigh Valley group may be the best affiliation for us. The IRS rules and regulations governing foundations are changing soon, becoming more cumbersome. The rules will cause more costs to run a foundation. Organization software can cost \$60,000 and staffing of four seems to be the norm. Dawn Ferrante reminded us that there is an existing Carbon Foundation that we should try to work into our plans.

Education & Workforce: Cyndi Zimmerman sent her report as she could not make the meeting. The Regional Career Ed Partnership for Youth Grant provided for 30 middle school teachers and guidance counselors to participate in this year's Educator in the Workplace Program held June 8-12 and June 15-19. The Educators were presented with information on Workforce Development, Economic Development, and Wall Street West. They also met with HR managers and toured Pencor, Kovatch, Gnaden Huetten Campus, Tobyhanna Army Depot, Split Rock Resort, Eckman Lumber and CCTI. To receive a stipend and Act 48 credits, participants must write two lesson plans that relate to what they have learned and correlate to the Career Ed & Work Standards.

To date, Cyndi has not received guidelines for the 2009-10 Regional Career Education Partnership for Youth Grant. Funding will be reduced again and will be competitive among the 21 existing grantees.

Carbon and Monroe Counties will develop individual Business Education Partnerships instead of consolidating. Joe Sebelin met with the Superintendent this week and we will begin inviting businesses to participate on the steering committee. The group will begin the process of obtaining a 501C3. The PFP non-profit status cannot be utilized under the Wall Street West guidelines.

George Wells reported that Stacy Kyle, of the PA Business Institute, will have \$15,000 in grants starting this July for activities, action, and mentoring to help people with disabilities get employment

The Weatherly Institute for Robotics is starting a new post-secondary education program. Stephen Kew-Goodale handed out flyers on the program.

Marketing & PR: The printed Carbon County Needs Assessment Report was mailed to 103 organizations including municipalities, school districts and Planning Commissions. Elissa passed the list for us to review and add other

organizations who should receive it. There is some grant money left and a follow up post card will be sent in a month or two. Some funds are set aside for an outreach workshop on the needs assessment. She encouraged members to check out the new web site www.carboncountypartners.org There is an invitation for people to get involved. It was suggested that all correspondence should include our new email and web site. The email is ccpartners@ptd.net

New Business: Elissa Thorne handed out a new birding book developed by Dan Kunkle , available at no charge, and Barbara Franzosa handed out the new illustrated Carbon County Map. The new Weissport Trail Head was completed dedicated this past weekend.

Task Force Sessions:

Econ & Heritage Dev & Community Foundation: determine ownership of former NJ Zinc West Plant, work on incorporating remnants of Lehigh Canal South of Palmerton into the D&L Trail, and meet with Lehigh Valley Community Foundation.

Education & Workforce: representative from this group to attend forum at LCCC, understand the needs of the new manufacturing, balance manufacturing training with other training for skilled engineering and business opportunities, create employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Health & Human Services/Family Collaborative: focusing on finding grants to provide dental care for the uninsured and the under-insured in the 18-25 year old age bracket.

The next meeting will be held on August 21st at 8:30AM at LCCC

Meeting adjourned at 9:45AM Minutes respectfully submitted by: Barbara Franzosa