

## **KEEP LAKE BEAUTIFUL MEETING – July 12, 2023**

The Keep Lake Beautiful Committee met on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. in the Board of County Commissioner's Meeting Room, Lake County Administration Building, Tavares, FL. The Civic Organization member in attendance was Melissa Simmes. The business owner/Chamber Representative was Deborah Jayne. The Citizen Representatives in attendance were Fernando Perez and CJ Blancett. The Staff Representatives in attendance were Veronica Dau, KLB Facilitator, Cathie Catusus, Water Lab Manager.

There was no quorum for the July 12 meeting, therefore the members that were there went over some discussion items.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Melissa Simmes called the meeting to order.

### **PLEDGE**

Melissa Simmes led the pledge of allegiance.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Melissa Simmes – skip the approval of minutes since there is no quorum currently.

### **COMPLETED PROJECTS**

Veronica Dau went over the completed projects.

In the summer program, similar to last summer, KLB went out to Extended Learning Centers (ELC). Education will be conducted in six schools with Trout Lake Nature Center. They have invited KLB to be part of their educational summer program. Veronica will be going to three other schools and Lake County Mosquito has joined. The programs focus on water quality and recycling. By the end of July, nine schools will be visited.

Pittman Community Cleanup – 9.86 tons of bulk was collected by the hauler; this was requested by Commissioner Campione because these neighborhoods asked for assistance with bulk pickups. 90 lbs. of litter were also picked up. A garbage truck was stationed at the US Forest Service

Visitors Center. Veronica would like to partner with the US Forest Service for future cleanups of the scenic highway.

Earth Day was a great success as it has been in the past. Teamed up with Clermont and cleaned up the lakes, parks and trails. There were 412 volunteers. KLB lent the equipment, helped get the word out to volunteers, and advertised it. There were also an Environmental Festival with environmental educational booths set up. Birds of Prey was there. Veronica taught about recycling, reducing and reusing, and made flowers out of cans with the children. 900 lbs. of litter from the lakes and the lake shores were collected.

KLB assisted Astatula and Leesburg with their community cleanups.

Astatula had a community cleanup on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It was their 1<sup>st</sup> cleanup. There were nine volunteers who collected 240 lbs. of litter and 900 lbs. of bulk items.

Leesburg community cleanup on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Two different parks were cleaned up by 38 volunteers who collected 760 lbs. of litter and a claw truck went around the neighborhoods and collected 6.5 tons of bulk.

KLB was invited by the Lake County Water Authority to speak at the Living Shorelines Presentation about the Effective Fertilizer Ordinance that KLB helped to write. It helps keep nutrient pollution out of the lakes. Most of the attendees live on the shoreline and learned about fertilizing near the lakes. More than 20 applications were received to join the Living Shorelines grant program to plant on their shoreline and keep a natural shoreline.

Melissa Simmes asked if the home stores would be involved with the fertilizer ordinance or if it would just be the online pledge.

Melissa Simmes and CJ Blancett expressed a desire to contact home stores about the fertilizer ordinance and continue with education for residents.

Veronica Dau responded that she teaches about the fertilizer ordinance and hands out bags of information for families to take home at KLB events.

Cathy Catusus said Veronica Dau also did a press release on the fertilizer ordinance and the Triangle ran the article, so that is another way the information is getting out there. As far as contacting Lowes and Ace, no that was not done.

Cathy Catusus said the Living Shoreline was looking to do another event in maybe October in the southern portion of the county.

CJ Blancett asked if we tend to speak on the commercial side of fertilizing or do we speak to the residents about fertilizing their own property.

Veronica said she concentrates on the residents' property whether they live on the shoreline or not.

There were seven volunteers who worked three hours on the beautification project at Oak Park Middle School and laid 5 cubic yards of mulch at the picnic area in the back of the school which was not completed in spring. Employees from Best Buy in Leesburg participated.

The KLB Roundtable meeting for America in Bloom was hosted in Mt. Dora at the W.T. Bland Library. A tour was given by a volunteer, Susan Myers. The purpose of the tour was to learn about planting native pollinating plants all throughout Lake County.

CJ Blancett and Melissa Simms expressed a desire to contact home stores about the fertilizer ordinance and continue with education for residents.

Fernando Perez expressed a desire to work with landscapers and builders to install native plants when planning and building new neighborhoods.

Cathy Catusus mentioned there are Lake County Landscape ordinances that must be followed.

Veronica Dau introduced Fernando Perez as the new board member.

#### PENDING PROJECTS AND DISCUSSION

A litter survey is required by Keep America Beautiful (KAB). We will survey/evaluate six areas covering the entire county. This was a 2-day project, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and July 17<sup>th</sup>. The results will be reported to KAB and used to evaluate needs/trends.

Fernando Perez asked about the mapping of routes.

Veronica Dau - This is a scientific survey, and they try to drive the same areas to score things consistently each year.

Cathy Catusus - The requirements for KAB require that the areas must include rural, downtown city-type areas, highways, and neighborhoods.

KLB will be doing a presentation on the KLB Program at the Leesburg Chamber Sunrise Breakfast that will be held on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 a.m. Deborah Jayne invited KLB to this event.

Veronica asked if Deborah Jayne would like to speak on this.

Deborah Jayne – Deborah is sponsoring this event and invited everyone who was present. It starts at 7:00 a.m. Be there at 6:30 a.m. if you will help set up tables.

Veronica Dau mentioned this would be an example of where KLB would bring the Effective Fertilizer Ordinance brochures and speak on it.

The Realtors Association of Lake and Sumter Counties will be getting together in July to clean up Florida's waters from July 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. The Crooked River chain of lakes will be cleaned this year with KLB. This is a combined effort with Adopt-A-Lake and Lake County Water Authority (LCWA). LCWA authority will provide the canoes and give a nature tour as they are collecting litter. Hoping to have 15 – 18 volunteers.

Planning ahead for the Fall Schedule:

October 21<sup>st</sup> – Leesburg Community Cleanup

November 18<sup>th</sup> – Sorrento Community Cleanup. Bulk trash drop off and if the FDEP renews the tire amnesty program we will be collecting tires for free from residents. Household Hazardous Waste has agreed to be there to collect from the residents.

November 15<sup>th</sup> is the America Recycle Event. This is a KAB requirement. We will plan an event in November. The requirements are to teach about recycling or collect recycling.

Veronica Dau asked for suggestions for Recycling events.

Melissa Simmes expressed concerns for logistics of collecting and storing items if the event was large – corporate or large groups. She is willing to help discuss the planning and logistics of an event. We will look for partners who have the ability to collect and dispose of collected materials.

CJ Blancett would like to collect old phones for women in shelters, as the phone will call 9-1-1 without service from a provider.

## OTHER BUSINESS

FDOT grant funding for KAB affiliates was included in the Governor's budget. They are working on the grant documents now and KLB will be able to apply for it through Keep Florida Beautiful. Should be \$15,000 and it should help with any project under the KLB umbrella.

We were awarded two Walmart Community Grants of \$1,000.00 each.

Next meeting date – October 11, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned until the next meeting on October 11, 2023 @ 8:30 a.m.

DRAFT