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MINUTES

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING ACOG BOARD ROOM, GREENVILLE, SC FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018 – 10:30 A.M.

- MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. Anne Thayer, Cindy Wilson, Mack Durham, Dennis Claramunt, Mayor Henry Jolly, Ed Elliot, David Cauthen, Butch Kirven, Joe Dill, Mayor Brandy Amidon, Lillian Brock Flemming, George Fletcher, Don Godbey, Grady Butley, Ennis Fant, Sen. Thomas Alexander, Edda Cammick, Bob Winchester, Ernest Riley, Dana Moore, Rep. Neal Collins, Roy Costner, Ensley Feemster, Larry Bagwell, Margaret Thompson, James Jackson, Rep. Mike Forrester, Larry Chappell, Jane Hall, Elbert Tillerson, Whitney Farr
- GUESTS PRESENT: Sonya Crandall | *Envision Williamson*, Misty Lee | *SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*, Joel Dill, Daniel Gambrell
- STAFF PRESENT: Steve Pelissier, Chip Bentley, Brooke Ferguson, Bryana Mistretta, Tim Womack, Arlene Young

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Dill. The invocation was offered by Mr. Elbert Tillerson. On motion by Mr. Don Godbey, seconded by Mr. Ed Elliot, the minutes of the March 23, 2018, meeting were unanimously approved.

Envision Williamston

Envision Williamston is a community based program designed to enhance the identity and heritage of the Williamston community by restoring vitality and ensuring economic stability through concentrated efforts in organization, promotion, design, and business development. Ms. Sonya Crandall, Executive Director of Envision Williamston, presented on the positive impact the organization has made to the quality of life of Williamston's residents.

- Through the efforts of the Economic Development & Placemaking and Community Engagement & Marketing committees, the organization has facilitated the development of dining, shopping, recreational, and placemaking options, as well as a diverse array of cultural and entertainment opportunities for residents and visitors.
 - Envision Williamston has involved the community in their efforts with surveys, challenges and contests, ribbon cuttings for new businesses, mural project, events, wayfinding signs and banners, adopt a Rest Stop program, volunteer opportunities, etc.

- 1,200 people participated in surveys and ZIP Code origin studies
- To increase the visibility of Williamston and town events and contests, Envision Williamston has installed billboard campaigns, an electronic message board, and created branded merchandise like shirts and hats.
- Over the next year, Envision Williamston plans to improve the streetscape using funds from an ARC grant. The projects include 3 minor gateways, 3 greenways, 14-15 rest stops, phase 2 of the Building Façades program, and 3 murals. They will also introduce a Main Street mobile application.

Pickens County Community Health Needs Assessment

In 2016, DHEC, in partnership with Baptist Easley Hospital, Cannon Memorial Hospital, and Behavioral Health Services, published the Pickens County Health Assessment, which focuses on identifying needs, gaps, barriers, potential disparate populations, and resources for community benefit. Ms. Misty Lee, Community Systems Health Educator for DHEC, presented the study's findings, as well as the process for its development.

- In 2014 a steering committee, the Pickens County Health Coalition (PCHC), was formed to begin identifying the needs, gaps, barriers, and community resources of the county. Data on the perceived health of the community was collected through surveys, community forums, key leader interviews, and focus groups. Data regarding the actual health of the community was collected from Baptist Easley Hospital and Cannon Memorial Hospital, as well as Kids Count, the Census, and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).
- The leading causes of death for Pickens County in 2014 were identified as Disease of the Heart (1), Cancer (2), Accidents (3), and Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (3). From the community surveys, the most important health problems were overweight/obesity, Diabetes, drug use, high blood pressure, and alcohol use.
- To identify the vulnerable populations in Pickens County, the PCHC used the map center on Communitycommons.org. Easley was the most vulnerable community in the County with more than 20% of the population below poverty level and more than 25% of the population with less than a high school education.
- The PCHC focused efforts on community engagement and education on healthy eating and active living to reduce obesity levels and the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs in the county. The PCHC morphed into new coalitions such as Steppin' It Up and Eat Smart Move More Pickens Coalition.

South Carolina 2018 Legislative Update

Ms. Brooke Ferguson addressed the legislative activity of the 2018 session of the South Carolina General Assembly with emphasis on items of interest to local governments.

- The State Budget: There has yet to be an agreement reached on the state budget. The Senate version was sent back to the House. A major point of contention between the two is how to spend the surplus in the budget. Debate will resume next week.
- SC Association of Counties legislative priorities of interest remaining: Lot Cleanup Legislation (H. 3896), Capital Projects Sales Tax for Economic Development (S. 889), Notification to Counties by the Department of Revenue (S. 793), Watercraft Taxation (H. 4715), and Electronic Liens (H.3684).
- Municipal Association legislative priorities of interest remaining: Accommodation and Hospitality Tax Expenditure Flexibility (S. 917), Local Government Fund Formula Changes

(H. 3099), Plastic Bag Regulation (H. 3529), Business License Standardization (H. 3650), Abandoned Buildings Act Extension (H. 4816), Utility Relocation for Transportation Projects (S. 932).

2018-2019 ACOG Board of Director Committee Assignments

Mr. Steve Pelissier distributed the committee assignments for the board members to review.

Special Presentation

Mr. Joe Dill presented Mr. Dennis Claramunt with an award in appreciation of his dedicated service as Board Chair from April 2016 to March 2018.

Executive Directors Report

The next meeting will be at 10:30 am on May 25th. The finance committee and Economic Development committees will meet at 9:30 am on May 25th. June 8th will be the executive committee retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Joe Dill, Chairman

THE SOUTH CAROLINA APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS HAS COMPLIED WITH THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IN SCHEDULING AND CONDUCTING THIS MEETING.