

**Meeting of
Land-of-Sky Regional Council
January 22, 2014**

MINUTES

- I. Call-to-Order – Bob Davy called the meeting to order.
- II. Invocation – Terry Bellamy
- III. Roll Call – Charlie Landreth called the roll and the following members were present: Ellen Frost, Glen Ingram, Wayne Brigman, Esther Manheimer, Fran Cogburn, Ryan Stone, Larry Harris, Charlie Landreth, Anne Coletta, Albert Gooch, Judy Boleman, Bob Davy, Barbara Volk, John Chandler, Darhyl Boone, Gene Knoefel, Charles Dickens, Sarah Nunez, Mark Burrows, and George Morosani. Guests included: Rodney Locks, Sara May, Vice-Chairman of the Volunteer Advisory Council as a proxy for Kathe Harris, former Mayor of Asheville, Terry Bellamy, Freddie Harrill, April Riddle, Colin McCormick, Hillary Sherman, the NC Economic Development Representative with the U.S. Department of Commerce, and Olivia Collier with the Appalachian Regional Commission.
- IV. Public Comment –
- V. Minutes of Meeting from December 5th, 2013 meeting – December Council meeting minutes were made available at the meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Gene Knoefel and seconded by George Morosani. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- VI. Modification and Approval of Agenda – Including Consent Agenda Items: A. 2014 Proposed Council Meeting Schedule, B. FY2013-14 November Treasurer's Report, C. FY2013-14 December Treasurer's Report, and D. FY2013-14 Budget Amendment #2. Gene Knoefel made a motion to accept the consent items and George Morosani seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- VII. Chairman's Comments & Roundtable –
Glen Ingram shared that Henderson County is looking at our regional mental health capabilities. The County has sent a request to the General Assembly for additional membership positions, which is currently restricted due to legislation. Mr. Ingram also discussed a trip that John Mitchell will be taking as a representative of Henderson County to South Carolina to look at a rail yard that is carrying goods from a port in Charleston and could potentially bring in goods into the County by rail through the Ecusta Trail. Barbara Volk of Hendersonville shared that they are having their planning retreat on Friday, January 24th, 2014, to regroup and update their vision for the city in lieu of completing their Main Street project. Charles Dickens discussed the Advisory Council on Aging's meeting at UNC Asheville's Ollie Center and their appreciation for Justin Hembree participating as a guest in that meeting. The Advisory Council on Aging will be meeting in Madison County in April of 2014. Mark Burrows shared that Transylvania County as appointed an Economic Taskforce to look at the county's economic development and how to greater emphasize economic development in the future. The Taskforce will be drafting a public report on Wednesday, January 29th, 2014 with recommendations for improvement. Mr. Burrows also shared that Dale Carroll, who is the former Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Commerce and is now in charge of the North Carolina Biotech Center in Western North Carolina; is working with Mr. Burrows to explore potential strategies to bring in high end residential and manufacturing facilities to the Davidson River Village. Ryan Stone shared that Black Mountain has adopted their updated comprehensive plan and that Land of Sky and Brian Taylor (former Land of Sky employee) were played a large role in completing it so quickly. Esther Manheimer shared that the City of Asheville's Council is looking forward to their annual retreat on May 7th and May 8th. The retreat will focus on affordable housing construction and a review of Asheville's Economic Incentives policy to make it more user-friendly for potential

investors. Bob Davy shared that Fletcher's Town Hall project is still underway and its completion is expected in April of 2014. Fletcher is also conducting a study regarding highway 25 to explore ways to better notify the public when they have entered downtown Fletcher. Charlie Landreth discussed Brevard's upcoming retreat and that the planning board has drafted their comprehensive plan to review during the retreat. They will also discuss ways to finance infrastructure projects. Ellen Frost shared that Buncombe County's retreat is on January 28th, 2014, where they plan to discuss living wage jobs, opening a STEM middle school and micro-lending. The county is building three new schools, with the STEM high school expected to be the first one completed. Gene Knoefel shared that Weaverville's retreat will take place in March of 2014. Weaverville is currently consulting to update their ordinances. Fran Cogburn shared that Biltmore Forest's Town Administrator, Nelson Smith is retiring after 25 years of service to the town. Albert Gooch discussed Flat Rock's purchase of the 65-acre golf course, to be converted into a park. There are two ongoing contracts for the project, one to remove or more some of the preexisting buildings and the other to complete the conversion, which will include hiking and biking trails. The park is expected to be completed within six months. John Chandler shared that Mars Hill's waterline replacement project is now complete and they have already seen a significant savings in water loss. The town will be using these savings to update their map of the water/sewer lines and hydrants, which will be available on Google Maps for easy access to maintenance workers.

VIII. Unfinished Business –

- A. Consideration of Amendment to Council Bylaws – Justin Hembree proposed a change to the Council Bylaws regarding the date for electing new Board officers. The current rules state this meeting should occur in January, but will be moved to March of each year. In this annual meeting, the Executive Committee officers and At-Large members will be selected by the Board. Gene Knoefel made a motion to approve this motion and Sara May (as proxy representing Volunteer Services) seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- B. End-Date June 30, 2013 Financial Statements – The North Carolina Department of State Treasurer, Local Government Commission (LGC) has approved Land of Sky's audited financial statement for the period ending June 30, 2014. Elizabeth Keel of Elizabeth Keel LLC, discussed that is her responsibility to administer financial reports to the LGC. Ms. Keel's main concerns involve audits of costs and gains to the organization. Peggy Barnes, Land of Sky's Finance Officer requested that the Board accept the LGC-approved financial statements. Mark Burrows made a motion to accept Land of Sky's pre-approved financial statements. George Morosani seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously and without further discussion.

IX. New Business –

- A. Consideration of Appointment of Nominating Committee – Justin Hembree proposed that the Executive Committee consider the possible make-up of the Nominating Committee during their meeting on the morning of January 22, 2014. These recommendations were shared with the Board during the regular meeting. Recommendations for the Nominating Committee included: Letta Jean Taylor, Forrest Gilliam, Bob Davy, and Joe Moore. George Morosani made a motion to approve the appointment of the Nominating committee and was seconded by Charles Dickens. The motion was carried unanimously and without further discussion.
- B. Consideration of Approval of Performance Audit Proposal – Justin Hembree discussed the need to develop a strategic plan for Land of Sky. The plan would take a two-phase approach where a performance audit would occur in the 1st phase and the strategic plan would be developed and implemented in stage two. To assist in these tasks, Mr. Hembree requested the Board's approval to accept a proposal from Evergreen Consulting to conduct the performance audit throughout the entire organization. The total for the audit will be \$40,000 and can be paid over two fiscal years. Funds would come from local funds and/or from the fund balance available for appropriation, which is currently \$610,000. Made a motion to approve working with Evergreen Consulting and Fran Cogburn seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously and without further discussion.

- X. Executive Director's Report – Justin Hembree
 - A. New Council Member Orientation – Justin Hembree shared that New Council Member Orientations may take place on February 3rd and 5th, 2014. Mr. Hembree encouraged the Board to invite other government officials and staff as well. There will also be one-on-one orientations available to those who can not attend the larger meetings.

- XI. Presentations –
 - A. Certificates of Appreciation – Justin Hembree and Bob Davy presented Certificates of Appreciation to Terry Bellamy, the former Mayor of Asheville and Land of Sky Executive Committee Member, and Rodney Locks, former City of Brevard Commissioner and NC League of Municipalities President.
 - B. Economic Development Administration (EDA) – Hillary Sherman, North Carolina Economic Development Representative with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), gave an overview of how the federal agency works with Land of Sky. The EDA assists in the development of regional plans with the Council of Government, and invests in the region.
 - C. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) – Olivia Collier with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) discussed some current ongoing projects the federal agency is working on in the Land of Sky region. The ARC works with 13 states and 29 counties within the ARC region. They are currently working on keeping the Farmer's Market relevant in Buncombe County and fairground grading in Henderson County.
 - D. Aging and Volunteer Services – LeeAnne Tucker shared with the board an overview of programs and services offered by Land of Sky's Aging and Volunteer Services Department. See www.landofsky.org for a detailed listing of those services.

- XII. Adjournment – Bob Davy adjourned the regular meeting.