



Minutes – Collaborative Meeting September 9, 2022

The meeting of Fannin County Family Connection Collaborative was held Friday, September 9, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. In Attendance: Chris Martinez, Sheena Rymer, Kristy Lindstrom, Victoria Turner, Tara Cantrell, Mark Snoddy, Amy Miles, Debby Beck, Nicole Post, TC Dillard, Crystal Cooke, Anna Speessen, Kirk Cameron, Cesar Martinez, Betty Whitmer, Kevin Panter, Mike Rutan, Jim Yacavone, Robin Davenport, Kim Strube, James Callender, Mark Knowles, Sheena Rymer, Tara Cantrell and Mandi Hyde.

Jim Yacavone, FCFC Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:56 pm. Introductions were made by those present and on zoom. Attendees were asked to look over the minutes from August 12, 2022 for approval. After a motion to approve the minutes was made by TC Dillard and seconded by Mark Snoddy, the minutes were approved without correction.

The first speaker was Kevin Panter with the Kiwanis Club of Blue Ridge. Kevin spoke about all the fundraising events Kiwanis does throughout the year that benefit the youth of Fannin County. Some of the events that Kiwanis does are the Blue Ridge Rodeo, Blues Train, which helps fund the Ferst Foundation monthly book program for children under the age of 5, Boots & Bourbon, Gun Raffle, and they host the Fannin County Community Service Conference. There are currently 60 members in the Kiwanis Club of Blue Ridge. The Kiwanians meet every Monday and are always looking for new members.

The next speaker was Cesar Martinez, Owner of Blue Ridge Adventure Wear, Representative of Blue Ridge Business Association, which has 130 members with a board of directors. Their goal is to give back to the community and promote businesses in Blue Ridge. The BRBA produces the Blue Ridge Downtown Walking Map that highlights BRBA members and produces "You Are Here" maps, which highlight all business in downtown Blue Ridge. The BRBA started 2 scholarships last year – for regular college and technical college. The BRBA hosts several events each year which include the Fire & Ice Festival, Chalk Festival, Merry Little Christmas Party, Halloween Safe Zone, and Light Up Blue Ridge featuring Gingerbread House Display at Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association. Cesar also represents BRBA and businesses interests to the Blue Ridge City Council and the Downtown Development Authority which is an organization sanctioned by State of Georgia to support cities.

Upcoming Community Calendar events:

Saturday, October 1, 2022 - Merry Little Christmas Party – Fundraiser for Light Up Blue Ridge at the Farmer's Market \$85 per ticket or \$600 per table of 8 people. Food, Dancing, Music. Proceeds assist City with purchase of lights and other items for LUBR.

Wednesday, October 5, 2022 – Community Services Conference 9am – 1pm at Kiwanis Fairgrounds, 124 Jones Street, Blue Ridge, GA - Vendor set up 7am & Program starts at 9am

October 12 - Volunteers needed for the Fannin High School Reality Day. Watch your email for signups. This activity is similar to the Poverty Simulation conducted last year. We'll need a lot of role players.

Monday, October 31, 2022 - Downtown Blue Ridge Halloween Safe Zone

November 25, 26 - Light Up Blue Ridge, weekend after Thanksgiving,

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Morris