

**LITTER TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING
GARLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE
COUNTY COURTROOM 200
MARCH 6, 2023, AT 5 PM
MINUTES**

Members: Chairman Anderson, Justices Dixon, Myers, Peters, McGrew, and Brown

Members absent: None

Also present: Citizens, Elected Officials, Staff, and Media

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order and asked Justice Dixon to present the invocation. Chairman Anderson opened the meeting up for discussion on roadside trash pickup. Chairman Anderson called on Justice Owen, who spoke about getting the Volunteer Coordinator for Garvan Woodland Gardens, Ms. Susan Harper, to help with volunteers. He suggested that finding organizations that are stakeholders in their area would be an excellent way to get participation. Justice Dixon asked Judge Mahoney to talk about the discussion on the Justices choosing roads in their districts. Judge Mahoney suggested the committee get each Quorum Court member to submit ten roads in their district. He believes covering all the county roads will take 200 to 250 volunteers. He indicated he was going to submit a request for proposal (RFP) for ideas about getting the litter picked up. He also said he would visit with the American Rescue Plan consultant to see if we can use some of these funds since more people are eating in their vehicles.

Looking at dates, Judge Mahoney would like a day in April or early May. Traci Berry, the Trail Coordinator for the Northwoods Trail System, indicated the Spring Fling is on April 29 and 30. Also, National Park College is having an Earth Day on the 21 that the city is participating in. Judge Mahoney stated that the county has the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Day on May 14.

Judge Mahoney indicated he would like this to be a city/county event. Justice Dixon agreed. Justice Dixon introduced Sarah Fowler with United Way, and Sarah said April 27 is a Day of Caring, and they would be happy to partner with the county.

Judge Mahoney said if 250 people could pick up two miles, that would be 500 miles of roads. He said he reached out to Hot Springs School District Superintendent Dr. Nehus, and she said that their students are always looking for community service. Justice Peters said he has the email addresses of all the superintendents in Garland County. Judge Mahoney stated that the key to prevention is to get the youth involved.

Justice Dixon said that the State of Arkansas would provide 250 vests, gloves, and about 750 trash bags.

Justice Dixon asked if anyone had contacted Teen Challenge, and Judge Mahoney said he would contact them. It was mentioned that they could contact SOZO Recovery Center in Jessieville and other recovery groups. Judge Mahoney said he had a contact in the SOZO group and would contact them to see if they wanted to volunteer.

There was some talk about the dates, and Judge did not want to do this the same weekend as the Spring Fling or HHW Day. Justice Peters noted Project Prom is in April, and he thinks it is on the 22nd. Judge Mahoney said we might need to push this back till May, but we need to try to do it before school is out.

Katie Yamauchi spoke to the committee and indicated the youth leadership is interested in participating.

There was some discussion on reaching out to the organizations, and Judge Mahoney said they would need to meet again on March 27.

Justice Anderson asked the Sheriff about the 3-O-9 program and discussed using them for the project. Judge Mahoney said he would see if he could find someone that leads that program.

Solid Waste Director Billy Sawyer asked if there was a way to have a Patrol Officer on Cedar Glades Road to help with people hauling trash to the Landfill that is flying out. Mr. Sawyer said his employees are handing out instructions daily, and he is putting manpower on Cedar Glades to clean up the road often. Judge Mahoney said the county has an ordinance to bag your trash, and they will include the stickers on the carts.

Justice Brown mentioned Harbor House, and Justice McGrew said several other recovery programs might help. Judge Mahoney asked Justice Dixon if the state of Arkansas provided any signage.

Chairman Anderson asked if there was anything further, and with nothing, the next meeting was set for March 27, 2023, at 5 pm.

The meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted



Susan Ashmore, CPA

Garland County Comptroller