May 14, 2013

TO: Cameron City Council

FROM: Council Member Bill Rose-Heim

RE: Detailed Proposal to form a Cameron Commission on Volunteer Community Service

Executive Summary

I respectfully request that the Cameron City Council form a Commission on Volunteer Community Service.

Proposed Mission Statement

The Cameron Commission on Volunteer Community Service acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council in connection with the development of volunteerism within the City. The Commission is charged with the task of encouraging and enabling residents to effectively volunteer their time and talent to community service projects within the City of Cameron.

Commission Membership

There are 11 members with at least one from each of the following organizations or professions:

- Cameron City Council
- Cameron Public Safety
- Cameron Chamber of Commerce
- Cameron Rotary Club
- Cameron Ministerial Alliance
- Cameron Parks and Recreation Department
- Cameron Public Library
- Cameron School District
- Cameron Regional Medical Center
- Quad County Resources

Term

The term of office is three years.

Meetings

The Commission meets on the fifth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

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Cost

The research and advisory work of the Commission on Volunteer Community Service shall be conducted by volunteers. There is no cost to the City.

Rationale

Communities function best when the majority of their citizens are able to contribute to the quality of their common life together. Volunteers in the City of Cameron have donated thousands of hours of skilled and semi-skilled labor. They have also contributed ideas that later became initiatives. They encourage and affirm the work of others – building morale and creating a stronger climate of goodwill.

Contrary to some popular perceptions, most citizens are glad to volunteer time, talent and resources to make life better for themselves and their neighbors. Ample research suggests that when volunteers are paired with initiatives that best match their personal passions and allow them to make good use their acquired skills, when projects and long-term missions are well organized, when volunteer efforts are coordinated so as to maximize impact without wasting volunteers' time, and when volunteers are affirmed and well supported with proper tools and supplies, volunteers

A Cameron Commission on Volunteer Community Service Commission could:

- Identify resources and methods to help create and maintain a volunteer asset map of the community
- Research and recommend ways for new residents of Cameron to self-identify their volunteer preferences and to learn about volunteer organizations and opportunities
- Recommend coordination and support efforts for future long-term, high-impact, community-wide, volunteer initiatives

Programs already exist that can help organizations and municipalities to do a better job of matching volunteers with service opportunities in their communities. One of these is Volunteer Match which makes effective use of social media and technology to make volunteer enrollment easy. http://www.volunteermatch.org/?gclid=CKy3ouXxlbcCFc5cMgod_loAkQ

Many cities in the U. S. have robust volunteer community service programs with a proven track record of enhancing quality of life and helping those communities to become more attractive to potential residents, new or expanding businesses, and state and federally funded programs.

http://riversideca.gov/volunteer/volunteer.asp

http://www.cityofsacramento.org/volunteers/

http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/Volunteer/

http://www.houstontx.gov/volunteer/

http://www.cityofevanston.org/resident/volunteer/

If formed, I would be pleased to be nominated for service on the Cameron Commission on Volunteer Community Service and to assist in recruiting a team that will assertively and effectively carry out its mission.

Respectfully,

William B. Rose-Heim

Cameron City Council Member

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