



Enhancing Community

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

The Bella Vista Foundation's third year of operations was focused on continuing to create relationships and acquaintances within the Bella Vista community, and to expand the Foundation's operations to benefit the community.

The following tools were used to increase Foundation recognition amongst the residents and community organizations:

- A. The Foundation web site www.bellavistafoundation.com was updated, enhanced, and continued to be used to attract anyone interested in Foundation activities.
 - a. The web site was enhanced with project history and several links to articles, a YouTube interview and a dedicated project web site for the trails plan project.
- B. The Foundation brochure, produced in 2013, was distributed at meetings and from a few public locations. The brochure provides general information and includes contacts and the Foundation web site address.
- C. A PowerPoint slide show presentation was developed to introduce the Foundation to local organizations. The presentation was delivered three times already, and will be used in the future.
- D. The Foundation President was interviewed by the local TV channel, and the 30 minute interview was published on YouTube, and was linked to the Foundation web site.

The Foundation had a busy year with community projects, which certainly increased our local visibility.

- A. Early in the year the Foundation was asked to lead a project to develop a Master Trails and Greenways Plan for Bella Vista. This project was funded by a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, who has already supported several planning and construction projects for the Northwest Arkansas Razorback Regional Greenway which extends 37 miles from Fayetteville to Bentonville and Lake Bella Vista.

Subsequently the Foundation sourced the project with Alta Planning and Design, a professional trail consultant who has been involved with the Razorback Greenway. A project steering committee broadly represents the Foundation, BV Property Owners Assoc., City of Bella Vista, and many local and regional organizations associated with trail users. In addition to input from the steering committee there have been two public meetings to solicit input for the location and type of trails to be constructed, as well as issues regarding safety and privacy.

This project will be completed in early 2015, and the results will be turned over to the City of Bella Vista and the BV Property Owners Assoc. to support future implementation, including seeking of funds for trail construction. The role of the Foundation going forward, if any, is undetermined at this time.

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- B. The Foundation participated for the second year with the Hay Days Organization to provide charitable funds and products for the 2014 Hay Days event. The Foundation has been approached with a possible way to increase participation with Hay Days events in the future years as they expand with additional activities and entertainment for the annual fall community event.
- C. The Bella Vista Ambassadors, formerly the BV Golf Ambassadors, is an organization who advertises and facilitates people to visit Bella Vista, and the Ambassadors promote Bella Vista as an ultimate retirement/relocation destination. They have approached the Foundation to assist them with potential charitable contributions to support their program. This is not yet an approved project, and will be considered early in 2015.

The Foundation accepted the donation of a Bella Vista residential building lot from a property owner in 2013. This was intended to be an experiment with real estate transactions and the possibility of raising funds for the Foundation. To date, the subject lot remains unsold, and the directors have agreed that no additional lots will be considered for acquisition until the real estate environment changes. The Foundation is currently marketing the lot with the intention of disposition as soon as possible.

The financial records of the Foundation for the year 2013 were reviewed by an outside accounting professional and determined to be accurate and sufficient. Revenues, expenses and balance sheet for the current year are shown in the final 2013 Financial Report.

The Board of Directors experienced turnover in 2014. Roberta Dale, Vice-President, resigned and the search began for replacement to protect our Bylaw requirements for a minimum of five directors. We were fortunate to identify and elect Bill Long and Ed Morgan, bringing the director count to seven. We are anticipating another resignation at the end of 2014, and are actively seeking additional qualified director candidates. We are allowed by Foundation Bylaws to have a maximum of nine directors, and the Foundation can certainly use the help as we take on new projects and conduct Foundation business.

The Foundation continues to value the participation of the Ex-Officio non-voting directors and alternate. They have supported the Foundation on behalf of their respective organizations, and the Foundation expects that relationship to continue, although there will be some turnover in Ex-Officio directors due to changes in leadership of their respective entities.

To summarize, the Foundation has made significant strides in 2014 toward recognition in the community and has led or participated in great community projects. The Foundation Directors intend to continue and further expand efforts to be recognized as a charitable community depository for donations that may be aggregated and used for the sole benefit of the Bella Vista community.

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