

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Agenda

October 3, 2019

Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the mountain landscape by providing input and advice to the Blowing Rock Staff and Town Council to help preserve and protect publicly maintained spaces.

- Approve September 5, 2019 Minutes –

- Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection –

- Annual Fundraising Letter/Donor Recognitions –

- Christmas Decorations –

- Other Business –

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
September 5, 2019
Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Melissa Pickett, Curt Andrews, Carol Knapp, & Bo Henderson
Staff Present: Chris Pate & Jennifer Brown
Guest: Charles Hardin
Begin: 9:01 a.m.
End: 11:30 a.m.

Approve August 1, 2019 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve the August 1, 2019 minutes, Carol seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that BRAAC has received \$1,535 in donations and have only spent \$88.10 since July 1, 2019 and the donation letter has not been sent out yet.

Annual Fundraising Letter: Jennifer stated that the tax information for Blowing Rock taxpayers and Blowing Rock fire district had been sent and she went through the list several times in hopes to eliminate numerous letters being sent back. She stated that the donor recognitions as well as the letter went to the printer that morning. Bo asked if we could send the letter to Town vendors and Jennifer stated that she would talk to the Finance Director and ask.

Economic Development Council and Village Foundation (Charles Hardin) – Village Entrance Design: Charles Hardin presented a conceptual design of the Sunset and Valley Boulevard intersection. He stated that the Village Foundation hired the same design team that designed the Mayview Plaza project and they took elements from the Mayview project and incorporated them into this design. He stated the columns are similar to Mayview Plaza's columns except these will have hanging baskets, lights on top, and down lighting on them. They are proposing adding pavers at the intersection as you drive on Sunset as well as pavers on the sidewalks. Mr. Hardin stated they have been in contact with DOT on the requirements for the roadway and they must be a certain length away from 321 and they must have a specific loop under them for the traffic light.

Bo stated that he was not in favor of tearing up the new sidewalks that have been poured and recommends that they coordinate with the contractor who is working on the Sunset Streetscape project now. He also suggested removing the proposed grass in the corners of the sidewalk and curb because grass will not grow or stay there so it needs to be pavers or concrete. Carol asked how much of the sidewalk is completed and how much would have to be torn up. Charles stated that the sidewalks on the corners are completed; however, he did not think the sidewalks are completed past the bridge.

Curt asked if there will be plaques on the columns and Charles stated that there will not be plaques on the columns because TDA is funding the project. Mr. Hardin stated that if there was not enough money then the Village Foundation would have to raise the difference. Melissa asked if once the project was completed would the maintenance be turned over to the Town and Charles said yes.

Bo stated that he would like all the entrances into downtown to look the same and he would like the Blowing Rock signs to match the Blowing Rock signs that we currently have. He also stated that he like that the design is drawing attention to downtown from Valley Boulevard. Mr. Hardin stated that they are working with a group of students at Appalachian State University to rebrand the signs but most of the feedback that they have received from people is that they like the current Blowing Rock signs.

Curt stated that one of the criticisms he has heard about Mayview Plaza is the color of the pavers in the road and that they do not look native. He asked why they are choosing to go with a color that has a

yellowy look and sticks out besides that it has continuity with Mayview Plaza. Carol stated that she agreed with Curt and that a gray color looked much better. Charles stated that he believes that color was chosen so it didn't look like the sidewalks and it was more prominent as a road.

Carol asked again if the TDA was funding the entire project and Mr. Hardin responded that if more money is needed that the Village Foundation would raise the money. Curt responded that he was completely against having bronze billboards on the columns for potential donors who give to this project.

Melissa stated that this a conceptual drawing and asked Mr. Hardin if he would be bringing back a final draft for approval and he stated yes. Curt wanted to make sure this is not a pre-approved concept and Mr. Hardin said it was not.

Public Art Request 2019-3 (Blowing Rock Inn): Melissa recused herself. Curt asked if she has talked to her neighbors about the art piece and she stated yes. Carol made a motion to approve the art piece, Bo seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

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