

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 2, 2012
Greenville, NC

The Community Appearance Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room #337 of City Hall located at 200 West Fifth Street.

Community Appearance Commission Members Present:

Mark Abboud, Vice Chair	Perry Kachroo	Bill Whisnant
Brenda Diggs	Diane Kulik	Fred Wright
Jeffrey Scott Johnson	Joanne Robertson	

Community Appearance Commission Members Absent:

Myron Caspar, Chair Jeffrey O'Neill

Staff Present: Sandy Gale Edmundson, Secretary; Kevin Heifferon, Building and Grounds Superintendent of Public Works; Niki Jones, Economic Development Project Coordinator; and Laura Searfoss, Ombudsman/Neighborhood Liaison

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission members pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MAY 2, 2012

Motion was made by Ms. Brenda Diggs and seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Scott Johnson to approve the May 2, 2012 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 4, 2012

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Scott Johnson and seconded by Mr. Fred Wright to approve the April 4, 2012 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MEMBER

Mr. Abboud introduced Ms. Diane Kulik as the most recently appointed Commission member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Diggs thanked Public Works for the median work completed on Firetower Road.

NEW BUSINESS

May Community Appearance Commission Awards and New Nominations

Ms. Kulik: How long do nominated properties get to be voted on by the Commission before they are removed from the nomination list?

Mr. Jones: Nominations remain on the list for three months.

The Commission voted for La Ribera (renovation) to receive the community appearance award.

The Commission nominated US Lawns on the corner of Dickinson Avenue, and the Mellow Mushroom restaurant.

Ms. Diggs: Can apartment complexes be nominated?

Ms. Kulik: Yes they can be nominated. Who takes the pictures of the nominated properties?

Mr. Jones: I take the pictures.

Ms. Kulik: Recognizing these properties encourages others.

Urban Forestry Master Plan

Mr. Heifferon: Mr. Skip Kincaid, Senior Consultant Urban Forester with Davey Resource Group out of St. Louis, MO will be presenting the Urban Forestry Master Plan. The City of Greenville wanted an Urban Forestry master plan and hired the Davey Resource Group to write the plan.

Mr. Kincaid: A study was done on the City and its trees. Benefits of trees:

1. Control Air Pollution;
2. Community Livability;
3. Economic Development: increase property value by 5% to 20%; attract and retain businesses and renters longer; improve retail districts and sales;
4. Water Quality;
5. Stormwater Mitigation: run-off reduction and peak flow reduction; and
6. Energy Conservation: direct savings to building owners and residents from trees; reduce energy consumption; reduce impacts greenhouse gas emissions and air quality.

Purpose of this meeting:

1. Describe the management plan process;
2. Provide updates about canopy cover analysis (2001 – 2010) and the City's current inventory; and
3. Gather input from stakeholders and city staff: (What do you have? What do you want? How do you get what you want?).

Mr. Heifferon: Members of this Commission are being asked to answer a questionnaire.

Ms. Kulik: Can the questionnaire be filled out on line?

Mr. Heifferon: Yes, I will send the questionnaire out on line for members to answer.

Ms. Kulik: The curb appeal of a City, how a City presents itself and how the City deals with trees have an impact on economic development.

Mr. Whisnant: The City needs public and private trees.

Mr. Kincaid: This plan is mostly going to be on public land.

Mr. Johnson: Who commissioned the plan?

Mr. Heifferon: Public Works did.

Mr. Johnson: Why?

Mr. Heifferon: This plan will sustain Urban Forestry.

Mr. Johnson: What is the scope of the project?

Mr. Kincaid: Create a master plan to provide guidance, provide a specification manual, and use to work together on issues.

The Commission thanked Mr. Kincaid for the presentation.

Updates by Subcommittees

There were no updates.

Updates by Staff

Mr. Jones: Mr. Holec has commented on Commission concerns.

Greenville's City Code requires all planned unit developments to establish a homeowners' association (HOA) to "perpetually" own and maintain open space within the development. According to Chief Planner/Interim Assistant City Manager Chris Padgett, open space includes common areas, such as signs, retention ponds, and other passive recreation space; however, rights-of-way are not included in the code's definition of "open space."

According to City Attorney Dave Holec, it is difficult, if possible at all, to impose a mandatory HOA on a subdivision that was not originally established with a mandatory HOA.

Ms. Diggs: Is Evans Street state maintained or city maintained property?

Ms. Kulik: Evans Street is state maintained property.

Motion was made by Ms. Diane Kulik and seconded by Mr. Bill Whisnant to ask Dave Holec to attend the June Commission meeting to answer share more information on his finding with the Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Searfoss: Neighborhood Improvement Grants will be presented to the Commission for review at the June 6, 2012 meeting.

COMMENTS

Mr. Abboud: Mr. Caspar was upset over the lack of participation in the City's Spring Cleanup event.

Ms. Kulik: Door hangers in bright colors placed on doors in neighborhoods reminding residents to volunteer and educating residents on what type of items are being accepted should be handed out annually.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Diane Kulik and seconded by Mr. Jeffrey Scott Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki S. Jones
Planner