

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

January 5, 2011
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	Valerie Guess
Myron Caspar	Troy Jensen
Dana Coles, Chair	Perry Kachroo
Brenda Diggs	Joanne Robertson

Community Appearance Commission Members Absent:

Albi McLawhorn	Redeem Robinson
----------------	-----------------

Staff Present: Sandy Gale Edmundson, Secretary; Kevin Heifferon, Public Works Department; Ken Jackson, Public Works Department; and Niki Jones, Planner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: JANUARY 5, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Ms. Valerie Guess to approve the changes to the January 6, 2011 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: DECEMBER 1, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Mr. Myron Caspar to approve December 1, 2010 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Tree Commission Update

Mr. Heifferon: City Council gave Staff for the following direction:

Gain input from Stakeholders;
Give City Council recommendations regarding tree policies; and
Provide list of suggestions made by stakeholders not in Staff recommendation. This

will give Council an opportunity to consider those suggestions.

Mr. Heifferon: Trees benefit the community by decreasing surface runoff, filtering and cleaning the air, providing health benefits, reducing energy costs, improving aesthetics, and providing shade. A group of developers/builders, members of the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) and Community Appearance Commission (CAC) developed the framework for the Tree Preservation Legislation in 2005. In 2005, additional incentives were developed within the vegetation requirements for preserving existing trees. In July 2006 received enabling legislation. In August 2006 developed proposed amendment to Tree Ordinance. In December 2006, a Citizen Information Meeting was conducted. In February 2007, the CAC and the EAC adopted a resolution of support. In February 2007, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval. In March 2007, the City Council approved.

Mr. Heifferon: The purpose and intent of the Tree Preservation Ordinance is to preserve trees within perimeter buffers of undeveloped properties until development plan is approved; and to give owner/developer/builder an opportunity to evaluate the advantages of preserving trees within buffers and to utilize available credits for retaining existing trees. The Tree Preservation Ordinance applies to undeveloped property greater than two acres prior to the approval of site plan, subdivision plan or other authorized development plan. Once approval is given, the property owner/developer may remove vegetation at their discretion in accordance with applicable regulations governing the development of property. Perimeter buffer zones shall not remove trees 6" DBH or greater, 50' from public right-of-ways, 50' adjacent to developed property, 25' adjacent to undeveloped property, shall not exceed 20% of property. Tree survey not required.

Mr. Heifferon: The exemptions are trees need to be removed to establish a driveway where no alternative means of access exists, forestry activities, and removal of trees for sale by nurseries. Denial of building permit or disapproval of plan would be three (3) years if trees removed prior to obtaining an approved site plan, subdivision plan or other authorized development plan and/or three (3) years if trees removed for forestry activity.

Mr. Heifferon: Penalties will cost two hundred dollars. Each tree will constitute a separate offense. Appropriate equitable action will be taken. Combination of penalties or remedies provided in this article could occur.

Mr. Heifferon: Summary of the Tree Preservation Ordinance applies to 6" diameter or greater trees in perimeter buffer of undeveloped property greater than two acres and a maximum of 20% of the property. After plan is approved, tree removal is at the discretion of the owner. Properties clear cut prior to plan approval or forestry activity will result in not receiving plan approval for three years.

Mr. Heifferon: January – February 2011 receive stakeholder input. March 2011 develop stakeholder committee. August 2011 work with stakeholder committee to

develop recommendation. September 2011 present to City Council.

Mr. Heifferon: The Community Appearance Commission is being asked for initial input and suggestions regarding the City's Tree Policies. A Commission member should volunteer to serve on the Stakeholder Committee.

Ms. Robertson: What does the area encompass?

Mr. Jackson: The extraterritorial jurisdiction is included.

Mr. Jensen: Did City Council ask for further details?

Mr. Jackson: City Council asked Staff to review it.

Mr. Heifferon: Commission members are being asked what they think

Mr. Caspar: Is it possible to expand in developed areas?

Mr. Heifferon: Decide what should be done through the process.

Mr. Abboud: Why were the trees at Harris Teeter taken down?

Mr. Heifferon: The trees were taken down to improve the site. The trees lasted twenty to twenty-five years. Trees are being planted at the site.

Mr. Abboud: Are the property owners responsible to replant the trees at Harris Teeter?

Mr. Jones: Staff looks at the site plan application and then the specified trees are to be planted back.

Mr. Heifferon: Commission members are being asked to please send comments to me.

Neighborhood Association Checks

Ms. Diggs: When will the neighborhood checks be sent out to the neighborhood associations that were approved for the grants?

Mr. Jones: I will check with Merrill Flood.

January Community Appearance Awards Voting and Nominations

The Commission voted for the University Book Exchange (UBE).

The Commission nominated the Greenway from the dog park to the Town Common, and the West Fifth Street Gateway.

Ms. Coles: Each Commission member is being asked to bring a Community Appearance award nomination to the February meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Coles: The Biennial Awards need to be gotten together, so we will meet.

Mr. Abboud: Kristen Drive will be cleaned up on the City's spring cleanup date plus a fall date.

Ms. Coles: Let's ask Kandie Smith to attend and work with her at the cleanups.

UPDATES BY STAFF

There were no updates by Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Ms. Valerie Guess to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Jones
Planner