

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

October 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, Vice Chair
Myron Caspar, Chair
Brenda Diggs
Jeffrey Scott Johnson

Perry Kachroo
Albi McLawhorn
Jeffrey O'Neill
Carol Phillips

Joanne Robertson
Fred E. Wright, III

Community Appearance Commission Members Absent:

Valerie Guess

Staff Present: Delbert Bryant, Sanitation Superintendent of Public Works; Sandy Gale Edmundson, Secretary; Niki Jones, Planner; and Laura Searfoss, Neighborhood Liaison/Ombudsman

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: OCTOBER 5, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Jeffrey Johnson and seconded by Mr. Albi McLawhorn to approve the October 5, 2011 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Scott Johnson and seconded by Mr. Albi McLawhorn to approve the September 7, 2011 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Caspar: Commission members are being asked to review the Commission's webpage on the City's website in order to ask questions and to make additions and comments. The Commission's Bylaws need to be revised. Perry Kachroo, Albi McLawhorn, and Jeffrey O'Neill will serve on the committee to revise the Bylaws. The monthly appearance awards are Biennial Awards, so a committee is needed for that but

not now, since monthly nominations do not need a committee. The Neighborhood Improvement Grants (NIG) do not need a committee. Laura Searfoss will handle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Recycling Update

Mr. Bryant: The recycling centers are at 1500 Beatty Street and across from Rose High School. The City of Greenville is giving out \$20 gift cards or \$20 utility credits to randomly chosen households on every City recycling pickup route that are caught recycling until June 2012. All you have to do is recycle.

Mr. McLawhorn: How does the random selection process work?

Mr. Bryant: Eight addresses are drawn out each day to receive the \$20.00 cards.

Mr. Kachroo: How do we get the information out to the neighborhoods?

Mr. Bryant: Ms. Searfoss will give the information to the Neighborhood Advisory Board members.

Mr. Kachroo: Notices could be sent out by mail or e-mail.

Ms. Robertson: This is great work by Public Works.

Ms. Diggs: I agree.

Ms. Diggs: What can be done about the construction material on the curb of the new home owner who did renovation?

Mr. Bryant: Please give me the address.

Ms. Diggs: The cleanup following Hurricane Irene has been great. Who is responsible for the cleanup on Evans Street Extension?

Mr. Bryant: The State is responsible.

Ms. Diggs: Who is responsible for the debris in front of the apartments on Evans Street?

Mr. Bryant: I will find out who owns the right-of-way.

Neighborhood Grants Overview and Update

Ms. Searfoss: The City of Greenville received two applications for the Fall 2011 Neighborhood Improvement Grant cycle which closed on August 26, 2011.

Cherry Oaks North Homeowners' Association applied for a grant of \$750.00 to offset the total cost (\$3,300.00) of purchasing and installing Willow Oak trees along Firetower Road. The Association is also seeking funding from Releaf (another City of Greenville program) which supports canopy tree projects along thoroughfares throughout the City. Voluntary payments from lot owners will finance the long term maintenance costs of this project. In addition to beautifying a major thoroughfare, this project would create a visual and noise buffer if Firetower Road is widened to five lanes (as planned).

The Gates Homeowners' Association applied for a grant of \$750.00 to offset the total cost to repair its existing entrance sign (\$885.00 - \$2,550.00), as well as to extend electricity and add lighting to the site (\$2,278.00). A well maintained entrance sign will improve the overall appearance of the Gates' neighborhood, and the added lighting will help motorists and pedestrians enter and exit the area safely at night.

Both Associations meet the minimum eligibility requirements for the grant program, and the proposed projects help accomplish the Community Appearance Commission's mission of encouraging improved community appearance on public and private property. For these reasons, the Community Development Department recommends that the Commission funds both projects as proposed.

Mr. Johnson: Why are there two funding cycles instead of reviewing the grants as they come in to the Community Development Department? How do the cycles keep problems from occurring?

Ms. Searfoss: Deadlines are needed for the applicants.

Ms. Robertson: I agree with Ms. Searfoss. Deadlines are needed. The applicants may not have all of the information, so it gives the applicant a chance to complete information. I am concerned about the trees on the berm at Cherry Oaks.

Ms. Searfoss: Cherry Oaks has been working with Public Works.

Ms. Robertson: Planting the trees and then possibly having to demolish them for the widening of Firetower Road may not be a good way to spend grant money.

Mr. McLawhorn: The Commission is not being bad stewards with the money.

Motion was made by Mr. Albi McLawhorn and seconded by Mr. Scott Johnson to approve the grant amount of \$750.00 for Cherry Oaks North neighborhood and the grant amount of \$750.00 for The Gates neighborhood. Motion carried unanimously.

October Community Appearance Awards and New Nominations

Mr. Jones: One of the primary functions of the Community Appearance Commission are the awards. On October 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Council will award the Biennial Appearance Awards to recipients.

The Commission voted for Cheddars to receive the appearance award for the month of October.

Mr. Caspar nominated the Pitt County Arboretum at the Pitt County Agricultural Center in the name of Danny Lauderdale created by his band of Master Gardeners.

Ms. Diggs nominated the Sonic on Memorial Drive.

Mr. Jones: If Commission members see a worthy property just call or e-mail me, so I can go out a get a picture of the property.

Adopt-a-Street Application

Mr. Jones: TrendSettez CC has made an application to adopt Fifth Street from Memorial Drive to Elizabeth. An organization can adopt more than one street.

Motion was made by Mr. Perry Kachroo and seconded by Ms. Joanne Robertson to approve TrendSettez CC's adoption of Fifth Street from Memorial Drive to Elizabeth. Motion carried unanimously.

Eyesore Challenges

Mr. Caspar: Code Enforcement is an active function in City government. I'd like to meet with Lt. Earl Phipps of Code Enforcement to see how to carry out the responsibility.

Ms. Diggs: Are eyesores public or private?

Mr. Jones: They can be both.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no subcommittee reports.

UPDATES BY STAFF

There were no updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Scott Johnson and seconded by Ms. Brenda Diggs to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Jones
Planner