

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

March 3, 2010
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	LaRonda Hodges
Myron Caspar, Vice-Chair	Troy Jensen
Dana Coles, Chair	Perry Kachroo
Brenda Diggs	

Community Appearance Commission Members Absent:

Teasha Barrett Albi McLawhorn Noria Namaz Kathryn Swope

Staff Present: Sandy Gale Edmundson, Secretary; Merrill Flood, Director of Community Development; Cori Hines, Neighborhood Liaison/Ombudsman; Niki Jones, Planner; and Carl Rees, Urban Development Planner

Others Present: Kandie Smith, City Council Liaison

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MARCH 3, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Mr. Mark Abboud to approve the March 3, 2010 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 3, 2010

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Mr. Myron Caspar to approve the February 3, 2010 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Ms. LaRonda Hodges

The Commission welcomed Ms. LaRonda Hodges as the most recently appointed member.

March Community Appearance Awards Voting and Nominations

The Commission voted for the Modlin Insurance Building as the winner of the March Community Appearance Award.

Downtown Projection Signs Update

Mr. Jones: Since Albi McLawhorn could not attend tonight's meeting, this item will be postponed until the April 2010 Commission meeting.

At last night's Redevelopment Commission meeting, the Commission initiated a text

Spring Cleanup Update

Mr. Hines: Spring Cleanup is April 24 – 30, 2010. The City will be relying on Commission members to man stations for incoming volunteers. No construction debris will be picked up due to economic constraints.

Mr. Flood: The cost is too great at the landfill for debris pickup, plus having a truck to pick that up with the manpower is too expensive as well.

Mr. Caspar: Is information already out to the public.

Mr. Flood: Yes.

Mr. Caspar: Last year's information was not clear about pickup.

Mr. Hines: Flyers will list what is accepted and what not accepted and how it is picked up.

Mr. Jones: Staff will invite a member of Public Works to address the concerns of the Commission.

Wildflower Program Update

Mr. Hines: There is a proposal to develop wildflower gardens on vacant city owned lots in the 45-Block Redevelopment Area. This proposed project would be a partnership between the Community Development Department, the Community Appearance Commission and the Community Building Committee of the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Partnering on the proposed initiative will not only improve the physical appearance but encourage greater civic involvement by local residents which will aid the City in its efforts to revitalize the area and reduce crime. A portion of the funds will be used to establish a vegetable garden and conduct a gardening seminar at the

Intergenerational Center during late March and early April. Staff is requesting the Commission's vote on the Wildflower Project.

Mr. Caspar: The next proposal will go before the Neighborhood Advisory Board. Who has \$6,000.00?

Mr. Hines: The Community Development Block Grant from Housing will fund this project. Once both Commissions approve this project, it will happen.

Mr. Jensen: That is a lot of area to plant.

Mr. Hines: A partnership with neighborhoods and City will attempt to improve sites before homes can actually be built to encourage pride in area and help maintain site to keep free of trash. Devon Lewis is the landscape architect who will work free of charge.

Mr. Abboud: Program will take care of itself and promote neighborhood factor.

Ms. Coles: This project is a good cause and the Community Appearance Commission should be supportive. This is a good way for the Commission to be seen in a positive light. Sometimes neighborhoods need a little assistance to help the community with problems.

Mr. Hines: A wildflower garden is low maintenance instead of mowing and will remove the burden from the City.

Mr. Kachroo: No litter signs would be a good idea. Will these always be vacant lots?

Mr. Hines: Houses will be built eventually. The wildflowers will be a placeholder.

Mr. Flood: Revitalization takes a long time, so this is part of an overall strategy not to have a vacant lot with broken glass.

Mr. Hines: These are highly visible lots especially at the corners.

Mr. Caspar: We are lacking details.

Mr. Hines: The City is putting together a framework of proposals, and we will do all of these lots and shape the sites.

Ms. Coles: Concrete decisions will be made after the proposal is approved.

Mr. Hines: Staff will consult with the Cooperative Extension Agency (CEA) for soil and plant cultivation. Neighborhood residents will be recruited to participate in the projects as well. Over time, the project will be turned over to neighborhood residents to maintain. The Commission will meet with the Neighborhood Advisory Board and citizens of the neighborhood to complete the project.

Mr. Abboud: The property has to be prepped and processed.

Ms. Diggs: I am glad to see this happen.

Mr. Kachroo: I'd rather see a park.

Mr. Caspar: The lots are barren.

Ms. Diggs: Houses have been knocked down.

Mr. Caspar: Tree or shrub should be put on each corner to mark the spots. Markers are needed between now and next year.

Councilmember Smith: Legwork will be done by me to let the neighborhood know what is going on with planting the two acres of lots. Individuals are concerned about the neighborhood.

Ms. Diggs: More needs to be done with the Beatrice Maye Park.

Councilmember Smith: The park will be maintained.

Motion was made by Ms. Brenda Diggs and seconded by Mr. Mark Abboud to approve the wildflower project for \$6,000.00 for the vacant property.

Adopt-A-Street Program Agreement: Gamma Beta Phi

Mr. Jones: Gamma Beta Phi, East Carolina University Chapter would like to adopt Eleventh Street from Clark to Anderson.

Motion was made by Mr. Mark Abboud and Mr. Troy Jensen to approve an adopt a street program agreement made by Gamma Beta Phi for Eleventh Street from Clark to Anderson. Motion carried unanimously.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Coles: The Awards and Design Committee met at Sheppard Memorial Library. The sub-committee is planning a planning session.

Ms. Diggs: The sub-committee is planning a public relations campaign for proper placement of yard waste.

Ms. Coles: A brochure on G-TV will be done for tidbits for neighborhoods.

Mr. Hines: Public Works is interested in education.

Updates by Staff

Mr. Flood: The City of Greenville is preparing budgets for fiscal year's 2010/11 and 2011/12. The Greenville City Council has instructed Staff to solicit input from city appointed boards and commissions on resource needs for budget consideration. As a result of City Council action, boards and commissions are being surveyed to determine fiscal needs. Any recommendations by boards and commissions to City Council should be by recommended action of the entire board. Staff liaisons will add an agenda item to the next agenda of the board or commission for consideration and recommendation. Also, staff will provide information at the next meeting on budget resources currently allocated to the respective board or commission. Please consider these operational needs and be prepared to provide recommendations at the next scheduled meeting.

Mr. Caspar: How much money are we talking about?

Mr. Flood: Projects that you do are important to City Council. The April meeting of the Commission is the deadline.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Caspar: There needs to be coverage of the College area during the weekends. Cars are parking illegally on the weekends and after 5:00 p.m. Garbage cans remain on the curbs full of trash.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion was made by Mr. Myron Caspar and seconded by Mr. Mark Abboud to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Jones
Planner