

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

April 5, 2022

Members Present: Curt Andrews, Bo Henderson, Carol Knapp, Whitney Brown, & Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown & Cory Cathcart

Begin: 9:05 a.m.

End: 11:00 a.m.

March Minutes Approval – Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the November and December minutes. Mr. Wetmore seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

BRAAC Board Update & Chair/Vice Chair Nominations – Mrs. Brown reported that Town Council had re-appointed Bo Henderson and had appointed Ms. Whitney Brown during their March meeting. She noted that the board now needed to nominate and elect a Chair and a Vice Chair. Mr. Andrews nominated Mr. Wetmore as Chair and Mrs. Knapp as Vice Chair. Mr. Wetmore seconded, and after further discussion it was unanimously approved.

Budget Update – Mrs. Brown reported that revenue collected to date is \$31,220, which is \$12,350 shy of projected revenue for the year. She explained that hanging basket/planter donations will be advertised May and June and should bring more donations. She added that only \$7,170.67 has been spent of the \$43,570 budget; however, the flowers for the hanging baskets, planters, and flower beds are yet to be purchased.

Arbor Day April 14, 2022 – Mrs. Brown informed the board that due to the delayed board appointments as well as Mr. Cathcart's busy planting season, they had decided to hold the Arbor Day celebration on Thursday, April 14th at 11:00 AM. It was proposed that Blowing Rock school children be invited to the celebration; however, after further discussion it was recommended to wait until next year when there would be more time to communicate with interested parties. Mrs. Brown will invite Town Council to participate in the ceremony.

Glen Burney Trail – Mrs. Brown stated that Mr. Jim Walters had delivered new signs for the Glen Burney Trail and that they have been installed. She shared concerns about the trail being open during inclement weather, so Town staff decided to produce an additional matching sign declaring that the trail is closed at dusk and during inclement weather. She explained that since some people ignore chains, barricades, and the like, the "Hike at Your Own Risk" option was chosen instead.

Broyhill Park (Broyhill Family Foundation) – Mrs. Brown updated the Commission on the evaluations and recommendations that the Parks Strategy Committee presented to Town Council during retreat. The committee is requesting that BRAAC present to the Broyhill Family Foundation and request funding for the maintenance and improvements that are needed in Broyhill Park. After further discussion Mr. Andrews agreed to work with Mrs. Brown on a presentation to the Broyhill Family Foundation.

Other Business – Mrs. Brown explained that the Parks Strategy Committee had requested that a BRAAC representative serve on the committee. Mr. Wetmore nominated Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Knapp seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Other Business – Mr. Wetmore explained that the Blowing Rock School had revitalized its PTO and that they want to work on the garden space on the Sunset Drive side of the school since it had again fallen on disrepair. They are seeking BRAAC's and/or our landscaping department's help. He stated that a beehive had been installed at the school and they are wanting to install a pollinator garden in that area. Mr. Andrews recommended that the Blowing Rock School PTO first create a leadership committee to oversee and maintain the project. With that in place, BRAAC and the landscaping department could help establish the project.

Other Business – Mr. Wetmore asked about the median on Laurel Lane where the rock flower bed is deteriorating. Mrs. Brown explained that townhomes have been approved to be built near that area and more damage from heavy equipment is likely during construction. She explained that Town Staff is looking at the whole area to ascertain if the wall needs to be rebuilt or redesigned once the homes have been completed.

Other Business – Mr. Andrews asked for an update on the History Walk. Mrs. Brown reported that the project will be included on the April Town Council agenda. The Blowing Rock Historical Society and the Blowing Rock Village Foundation are requesting approval for the entire project. BRAAC agreed to recommend to Town Council that installation of the History Walk be scheduled after the sediment issue has been resolved and the lake has been dredged to avoid likely damage from these projects. BRAAC also suggested that the Blowing Rock Historical Society and Blowing Rock Village Foundation commit to funding new sidewalks around Broyhill Lake to complement the History Walk installations.