

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Agenda

July 19, 2022

Town Council Chambers 8:30 a.m.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the mountain landscape by providing input and advice to the Blowing Rock Staff and Town Council to help preserve and protect publicly maintained spaces.

- Approve May 10, 2022 & June 28, 2022, Minutes –

- Budget Update/2021-2022 Donations –

- Public Art Application Request (Chetola) –

- Broyhill Park (Broyhill Foundation) –

- Donation Letter –

- Other Business –

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

May 10, 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: 10:20 a.m.

April Minutes Approval – Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the April minutes. Mrs. Knapp seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve.

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. She added that only \$7,170.67 has been spent of the \$43,570 budget and that flowers for the hanging baskets, planters, and flower beds are yet to be purchased. Mr. Henderson asked if we could take credit cards for donations. Mrs. Brown explained why that was currently not possible. Mr. Henderson made a motion to facilitate the option to take credit cards for BRAAC donations. Mr. Andrews seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Request for Rock Wall (American Legion Stairs) \$8500 – Mrs. Brown explained that the stairs next to the American Legion are being renovated and will need rock walls to control storm water. The cost is \$8500 to complete the project. Mr. Henderson made a motion to approve funding. Whitney Brown seconded, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Public Art Application Request (BRAHM) – Mrs. Brown stated that BRAHM submitted a request to change the sculpture that is located next to its building. Each year Appalachian State University's Turchin Center supplies a new sculpture for display. Mr. Andrews made a motion to approve the installation of the sculpture. Mr. Henderson seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve

Broyhill Park (Broyhill Family Foundation) – Mrs. Brown stated that she and Mr. Andrews had not yet met to work on an updated presentation to the Foundation. This will be finalized after the completion of the American Legion stairs. She added that next year's budget request will include monies to evaluate the source of sediment that is filling the lake.

Other Business – Mr. Wetmore stated that he had reached out to Town Council to clarify BRAAC's roles. After a few responses, he still had no clarity. Mr. Andrews and Mr. Henderson agreed due to recurring inconsistencies, roles needed to be defined. They asked Mrs. Brown to set up a meeting between BRAAC and Town Council to discuss.

Other Business – Mr. Andrews stated that last month he was nominated by his BRAAC peers to serve as BRAAC's representative on the Parks Strategy Committee. After further reflection he respectfully declined and nominated Whitney Brown.

Other Business – Mrs. Knapp asked Mr. Cathcart what was going to be planted in the bulb-outs where the new stop lights were installed on Main Street at Sunset Drive. Mr. Cathcart replied that he has a landscape plan that is pending necessary approval by NCDOT.

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

June 28, 2022

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

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown & Shane Fox

Begin: 3:15 pm

End: 4:00 pm

Direction from Town Council – Mr. Fox provided background as to BRAAC and its roles. He explained that BRAAC had raised questions regarding these roles and its responsibilities to Town Council.

Mr. Wetmore opened by summarizing numerous projects from the past several years that had been referred to BRAAC and others where BRAAC was not involved at all, such as the Blowing Rock History Walk. He asked for parameters to know when BRAAC should be expected to be involved such that subjected entities and BRAAC itself could work with consistent guidelines.

Mayor Sellers expressed that he felt that the History Walk appears to have fallen through the cracks. Mr. Wetmore noted that BRAAC unanimously had supported the concept of the History Walk; however, there were issues that clearly needed to be addressed before the project should have been approved by Town Council.

Mr. Harwood stated that the Town Code is ambiguous and that BRAAC has been functioning through an accumulation of duties over the years. Mr. Andrews explained that a previous Town Manager, Scott Fogleman, had guided BRAAC to mimic Planning Board operationally. He stated that he and others were told by officials in the know that the History Walk was intentionally *not* referred to BRAAC. He noted that BRAAC is an impartial group of citizens with complementary backgrounds that is charged with researching and preparing recommendations to Town Council for projects that impact Town-owned properties and open spaces. He also stated that it has been brought to BRAAC's attention that certain identifiable groups who have once presented yet no longer present to BRAAC feel that their projects have not favored, claiming bias. Mr. Andrews emphatically explained that was not, is not, and will never be the case. No project is ever or has even been favored or disfavored. He further welcomed any such misinformed party to meet with BRAAC and with the Town Manager, and/or the Mayor, and/or any member of Town Council to discuss specific or general issues. After all, it is a fact that every project is evaluated such that recommendations reflect in an unbiased manor what is agreed to be best for the Town.

Mr. Harwood feels that BRAAC plays an important role in our community and thus needs to have a defined role in the Town Code with greater definition and clarity. He feels that Town Council needs to expect BRAAC's council for appropriate projects. Mayor Sellers suggested that Mrs. Pickett be the liaison between BRAAC and Town Council to clearly define BRAAC's role and working parameters.

Mr. Henderson reiterated that in the past and to date, only specific groups have been allowed to circumvent BRAAC's review. Town Council's defining specific parameters would go far to assure consistency and fairness to all parties. He reminded everyone that the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is a board that is appointed by Town Council and whose members serve at the

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pleasure of Town Council. It analyzes and advises. It has no and should have no final decision-making role. Recommendations are made to Town Council for review, revision, rejection, or approval. Mr. Wetmore agreed and concluded that having clear communication from Town Council to BRAAC would be a tremendous help to all.

Mr. Matheson suggested that Planning Board ask BRAAC to give recommendations regarding projects that come to them. Mrs. Pickett explained that Planning Board analyzes and makes recommendations on projects on private properties and that BRAAC's purview is and should be limited to public property and that the two should be kept separate.

Mr. Fox summarized that the Town will work with Mrs. Pickett, as liaison, to provide the Town greater clarity and direction regarding BRAAC and expectations regarding projects impacting Town-owned properties and open spaces and will bring findings back to Town Council for final approval.

Town of Blowing Rock

Public Art Application

Applicant Information

Contact Name: Greg Tarbutton

Contact Address: Chetola Resort

Contact Phone Number: (678) 357-7974

Contact Email Address: milestj1@msn.com

Artwork Information

Title of Artwork: Lotus Blossom

Artist Contact (Please attach bio if available)

Name: Beau Lyday- Farmstead Studio

Address: <http://www.farmsteadstudio.com/index.html>

Phone Number: 828-228-1220

Email Address: farmsteadstudio1@gmail.com

Artwork Type: Public Art

Dimensions: 96" Height 40" dia. 14" wide

Media: Wood and Corten Steel

Acknowledgment plaque Y N NO

Desired Location:

Please attach the following documentation to the application:

1. Photographs and drawings which fully illustrate the proposed artwork
2. Proposed location map
3. Proposed site plan
4. Photos of the proposed site
5. Proposed landscape plan
6. Proposed lighting plan if applicable
7. Description of site preparation including grading, landscaping, seating, lighting, signage, etc.
8. Any proposed budget items that will not be funded by the project itself
9. Proposal to maintain the art project and any landscaping, lighting, signage, etc. for the life of the proposed art piece

Exclusion Of Liability:

The Town of Blowing Rock shall not be held liable to any parties, including but not limited to artists or donors for any losses, claims, injuries or damages from theft, damage, vandalism or bodily injury arising out of or in any way related to a public art project. The Town will require that all donors or artists sign a waiver and release which evidences this understanding and agreement.

I have read the Exclusion of Liability above and agree to the terms.

Signature _____ Date

ATTACHMENTS enclosed

Lotus Blossom- Privately funded Public Art



Detail- Lotus Blossom



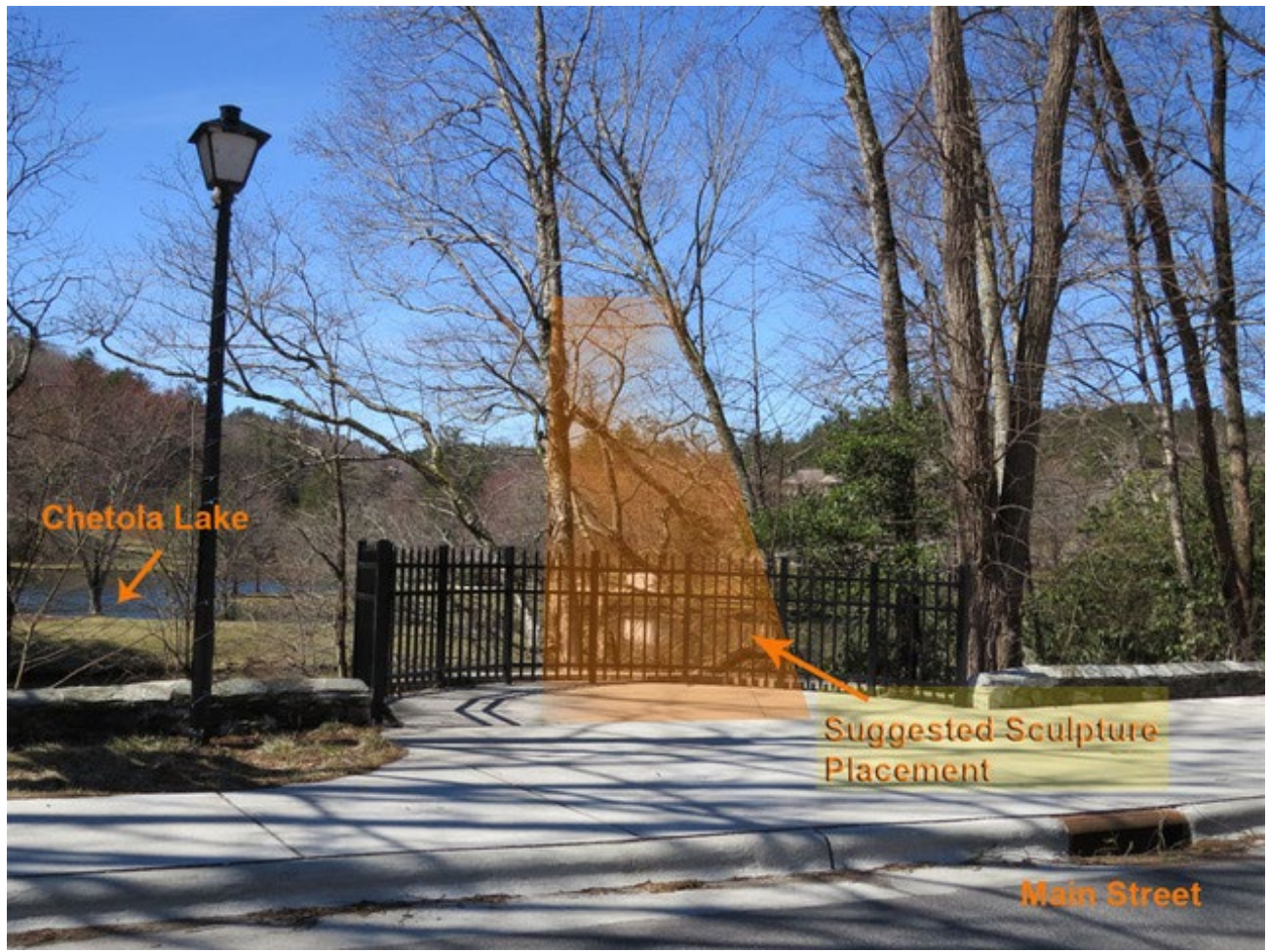
No moving parts

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Existing site and sculpture- No maintenance required by Town of Blowing Rock

- No signage
- Anchorage conforms to current code specifications
- Existing landscape and hardscape

SITE- Private Property owned by Chetola Resort North Main Street



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