

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Minutes

August 1, 2023

Members Present: Whitney Brown, Carol Knapp, Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Jennifer Brown, Kevin Rothrock, Cory Cathcart

Guest: Melissa Pickett

Begin: 9:06 AM

End: 10:128AM

June 6, 2023, Minutes – Whitney Brown made a motion to approve as written. Mrs. Knapp seconded, and there was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update – Mrs. Brown stated that she will send an updated budget after she receives it from the Finance Director.

Broyhill Park (Broyhill Family Foundation) – Mrs. Brown reported that she and Mr. Rothrock had met with Sheila Triplett-Brady and Hunt Broyhill regarding the request for a grant to improve Broyhill Park. The Broyhill Family Foundation offered to contribute as much as \$200,000 as a match to the Town. The Town can solicit other funding sources to fund this match, or it can come from the Town budget. Mrs. Brown will contact other foundations to meet the match.

Trees in Memorial Park – Mrs. Brown stated that the dead/dying trees in Memorial Park will be removed once the renovations to Memorial Park are underway. She stated that the two maples in the tree wells are in such poor condition that they need to be removed sooner than later. Mr. Rothrock suggested that Mr. Cathcart come up with a design and plan to present to Town Council for the September meeting. This would allow enough time to remove the trees, fix drainage, and plant new trees. Staff will continue to trim dead branches until the trees are removed.

Update from Council Meeting – Mrs. Brown reported that Town Council has decided to merge BRAAC and the Parks Strategy Committee and has directed Mr. Rothrock and Mrs. Pickett to lead the merger plan process. Mr. Rothrock noted that Council sees the importance of both committees, yet they unnecessarily overlap in some areas. Town Council expects recommendations to be presented at the September meeting with suggestions for a new name as well as guidelines for the commission. BRAAC members will submit suggestions to Mr. Rothrock by August 31st.

Other Business – Mr. Wetmore noted that BRAAC has asked numerous times over as many years for answers to questions regarding the source of and the remedies for the sediment that flows downstream into Broyhill Lake. Mrs. Brown stated that she needs to follow up with the Town Engineers about the study. She also stated that the company who we purchased the fountain from suggested purchasing bubblers that would allow the biodegradable material in the bottom of the lake to be circulated to the top where the sun could break down the matter. This would prevent us having to dredge the entire lake and only have to dredge the upper pond and bad areas. Mrs. Brown stated she would get a quote for the bubbler system and bring back to the board.