

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
February 4th, 2016

BRAAC Members Attending: Curt Andrews, Anne Barnes, Deborah McDowell, and Jennifer Chick

BRAAC Members Absent: Bo Henderson, Melissa Pickett, and Barbara Wright

Staff Members: Scott Fogleman, Jennifer Brown, Chris Pate, and Erin Kegley

The meeting was called to order by Curt at 6:00pm.

Approve January 7th, 2016 Minutes- Anne made a motion to approve the minutes, Deborah seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection- Jennifer stated that the donation letters were sent out to the addresses that were not sent out last fall and to date BRAAC has received an additional \$4,070.00 to bring the total to \$11,155.00 for General Donations. BRAAC has also exceeded estimated revenue for Hanging Baskets for this fiscal year by \$200. Chris updated the committee about the BRAAC truck stating that it is not yet finished, but that it should be done soon.

Review Fundraising Presentation- Scott stated that Town Council enjoyed the presentation and is supportive of presenting to the Broyhill Foundation. Curt asked if any Town Council members were interested in going with the presenting group to have a voice. Scott mentioned that Jim Steele and Albert Yount wanted to attend the meeting with the Broyhill Foundation. Curt asked if Albert and Jim would be interested in speaking during the presentation. Scott stated that they would likely be more interested in greeting the attendees and then just answer questions that may come up. After further discussion it was decided that a final draft of the slideshow will be made and presenters will begin to get ready for the final presentation.

Legacy Garden Update- Scott stated that Council believed that the Town should pursue easements for Legacy Garden and the trail for maintenance purposes. The previous Town Attorney, Tony DiSanti, stated the Town previously got easements in the 1980's for Legacy Garden and trail, but as of now they have not been located. Town employees are in the process of looking. Curt asked where the funds will come from to maintain the gardens. Scott stated that Parks and Recreation will be responsible for the funds. Chris mentioned that Tony Pace was set up on a four times a year maintenance schedule, but with the work that Tony has done this past year, the scheduled maintenance could possibly be changed to two or three times a year. Curt asked how this will affect our priority of time and funds. Scott stated that Town Council also agreed on adding winter lighting to all the light poles from Chestnut Circle to the Blowing Rock Furniture Gallery at the corner of Business 321 and Valley Boulevard. With those additions Town Council thought it should be the Town's priority to maintain the gardens and trail because that area will be seen more with the addition of lights.

Blue Spruce in Front of Town Hall- Jennifer gave BRAAC a brief description of the past years with lighting of the tree, then mentioned that in the past two years Scott has gotten many emails asking why the big tree is not being lit anymore. Jennifer asked BRAAC if they have any thoughts on lighting the tree again, or continue to not light the tree. Curt asked if the tree is improving from the last time this was brought up. Jennifer stated that we have a gentleman that works for the National Park Service who will come out, free of charge, and check the condition of all trees in our park, which will include the blue spruce. Jennifer stated she will call the gentleman upon BRAAC's decision on what to consider with the tree. Jennifer handed out a picture that had a comparison of the tree from 2003 to today. It has grown tremendously and Jennifer stated that if there was a decision to light this tree again, her department could not light this tree. Curt stated that Parks and Recreation needs to create a plan to quantify that discusses the labor and cost it takes to put the lights on the tree. Curt asked when the timing of the inspection will happen. Jennifer stated that she will call tomorrow and schedule it. Scott stated that once we receive the report about the health and safety of the tree, BRAAC can then make a recommendation on whether or not to consider decorating it again.

Other Business- Jennifer Chick stated that she discussed Clean-up Day with Kevin Clark, the Blowing Rock Boy Scout leader, about the Boy Scouts participating during it. He stated that they work during Art in the Park and would not be able to participate in it. Deborah asked if Blowing Rock School could help during Clean-up Day. Jennifer stated that it may be too difficult to get the school involved since it is on a weekend; however, they could be encouraged to clean up around the school the week before. Jennifer Chick said she would follow up with Kevin Clark to encourage the Boy scouts to help out with BRAAC events. Anne asked if the gardens on Sunset have been addressed. Scott mentioned that he talked to Principal Patrick Sukow and he stated that he is open to have the Garden Club or BRAAC come and help direct students to clean up the garden. Anne said she wouldn't mind talking with the Garden Club and working with the school children on the gardens. Curt stated he would like Scott to have a follow up meeting with Mr. Sukow and the Garden Club to set up times to meet and work on the garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held March 3rd, 2016 at Town Hall at 5:30 pm.