

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
May 5, 2016

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

BRAAC Members Absent: Bo Henderson

Staff Members: Scott Fogleman, Jennifer Brown, Chris Pate and Autumn Goheen

This meeting was called to order by Curt at 5:32 p.m.

**Approve April 7, 2016 Minutes:** Anne made a motion to approve the minutes, Melissa seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection:** Jennifer stated that to date \$14,940.45 had been spent which includes the cost of the truck being repaired. \$300 had been received since the last meeting, \$100 for baskets and \$200 for general funding. She then stated that \$24,025.00 had been collected for revenue. Chris stated the projected cost of the flowers and hanging baskets would not exceed \$8,000 which is what was spent last year. Melissa stated "Thank You" notes were being worked on for this year's baskets. Jennifer stated she wanted to hold off on the newspaper article for the baskets until registration ended in July. Melissa and Curt will write the newspaper article. Chris discussed the possible hiring of an intern and stated he had positive feedback from both Catawba and Caldwell Community Colleges but has yet to receive any specific details. Anne mentioned that BRAAC has not received funding for an intern this year that has been received in previous years. Melissa and Curt discussed applying for the Village Foundation Scholarship of \$4,000 and presenting it at the Village Foundation meeting on May 19. Melissa encourages the application be written towards economic development and have a BRAAC member present it on May 19.

**Clean-Up Day:** Curt stated that Clean Up day will be Saturday, May 7 at 9:30 a.m. He agreed to pick up food donations from Town Tavern and Woodlands at 11:00 a.m. the day of. The lack of advertising was discussed and Curt stated he would like to plan better next year and write a press release to gain more participation.

**Legacy Garden Update:** Scott stated the easement documentation was moving forward. Chris is going to contact Tony Pace in regards to cleaning up the gardens for spring. Scott stated a Naming Policy would be discussed at the next Council Meeting. The estimated cost for rejuvenating Legacy Garden was stated to be \$1,000 and Scott discussed the possibility of BRAAC covering this expense. Melissa stated she believed BRAAC has other areas of focus this money should be spent on, i.e. the flowerbeds above the new sidewalks adjacent to Memorial Park. Anne suggested that we discuss the status of the flower beds with Stella from the garden club who has taken charge of maintenance of these beds. Chris noted the lack of communication between the garden club and himself stating they often worked on contradictory projects which often led to projects having to be completed twice or trash laying on the sidewalk for extended periods of time. Curt suggested the garden club collaborate with Chris because the land was the property of the Town. Melissa then discussed naming parks in Town which currently receive no funding from the respective families to assist with covering ongoing maintenance expenses.

**Follow Up from April's Meeting (Anne with the School Gardens/Jennifer Chick with Boy Scouts:** Anne stated that herself and Norris had met with a class and teacher, Renee Carter, who repositioned planting materials at the school gardens. Rob Dyer will be spreading mulch next week and the school kids will sweep the sidewalks next Thursday before the first concert. Debora requested a trash can be placed there or somewhere on Sunset and Anne stated the trash can was up to the school because it was their property. Anne stated the kids had done a wonderful job with the gardens. Anne currently has 2 people lined up for May to assist in watering and general upkeep of the gardens. She currently needs 2 volunteers for the months of July and August. She noted that watering is an issue and it is currently being completed with buckets. Hoses from Ragged Gardens or Ale house are too difficult to pull to the area. Rob Dyer may pay to have a spigot installed. Scott stated that the Auditorium entrance to the school should be cared for by the school or Ensemble Stage. Jennifer Chick stated the Boy Scouts would not be able to assist with Clean-up Day this year. Scott said Chris, Jennifer Brown and himself met with the new troop leader, Jason Kendrick, and were very impressed with his professionalism and enthusiasm. Jason said he feels the scouts will be more involved with the Town in the future.

**Other Business:** Melissa requested that Chris develop a plan of Annie Cannon Gardens and would like for funding to go towards rejuvenating this area. Curt suggested BRAAC meet at Annie Cannon to assist in creating the plan for the area. After the plan is completed Chris suggested possibly requesting funds from Mrs. Grey as recommended by Bo previously.

Scott asked Curt if he would be willing to make a presentation to Council regarding the \$30,000 grant received from the Broyhill Family Foundation and how the monies will be utilized. Scott then discussed the tree report from Stuart Scott. This report was 22 pages and covered many of the trees on Town property. Scott distributed a copy of one page discussing the Blue Spruce in front of Town Hall. The report stated the tree had outgrown its space and no amount of care would prevent its deterioration. Scott will provide a copy of the full report to Town Council for discussion. Scott noted that several trees in the park were in poor condition and recommended more mulch beds to preserve the trees as long as possible. Jennifer stated that 2 stone rings would cost approximately \$6,000 and she would like to replace all of the wooden beds with stone rings which would provide a dual purpose of extra seating in the park for concerts and other events. Jennifer suggested that upon replacing these trees there should be differentiation in species to limit susceptibility to disease. Chris suggested that one possibility would be to consider replacing all of the trees at once like was done at Biltmore, to provide a uniform appearance in size. Everyone acknowledged this would be a drastic step that would definitely require further consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m.