

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
June 4, 2015

BRAAC Members Attending: Bo Henderson, Curt Andrews, Anne Barnes, Melissa Pickett

BRAAC Members Absent: Barbara Wright and Deborah McDowell

Staff Members: Scott Fogleman, Jennifer Brown

The meeting was called to order by Bo at 5:31pm.

Approve May 7, 2015 Minutes- Anne made a motion to approve the minutes, Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection- Jennifer stated that the projected revenues have been met for 2014-2015 and that expenses are expected to be over budget due to the extra cost of flowers and funding the Legacy Garden Project. Curt and Melissa stated that they had reservations about funding the maintenance of Legacy Gardens which is private property. Melissa was concerned about spending \$7,000 a year on the maintenance which could be used for Town property projects. Bo asked if Town property owners could be asked to help offset the costs. Anne stated that she was told that the gardens were on Town property and that is why she suggested BRAAC maintaining it. After further discussion Scott suggested he consult with Town Council and upon their approval he and Jennifer will craft a letter suggesting a proportional share of the cost to the property owners. Bo then stated that the hanging baskets and flowers are beautiful and worth the extra money. Curt requested that BRAAC be given a time of year as to what is spent to have a better understanding of the budget and to know what to expect when deciding on funding projects.

American Legion Landscape Plan/Update- Bo stated that the landscaping at the American Legion looks amazing! Jennifer stated that the ribbon cutting will be taking place June 8, 2015 at 3:30 and BRAAC members are invited.

2015-2016 Budget- Scott stated that Town Council was fine with BRAAC having a \$30,000 budget and then adjusting accordingly throughout the year if increased fund raising efforts aren't met.

Planting Day Summary- Jennifer stated that for the two days that were set aside for people to call and volunteer, only two people came to help. Curt suggested that we have a sign-up sheet next year because people are less likely to back out if their name is on a list. Bo also suggested adding it to church bulletins, announcing it to local clubs, and BRAAC needs to help with solicitation.

Mayview Park- Scott was contacted by the property owner adjacent to the park, who is trying to sell the house, about the upkeep of the park. Jennifer stated that her last recollection about direction regarding the back bank was to allow plants to grow up to cover the chain link fence.

Bo asked that the property line be checked to determine how to address the maintenance. Bo also stated that they talked about the park at the Mayview HOA meeting and they would like to maintain the garden. Scott suggested we discuss this further at the July meeting.

Projects List- Bo stated that Annie Cannon Garden and Koerschner Garden needs some work. Jennifer stated that Davant field also needs some attention. Anne suggested contacting the families of the gardens to see if they would be willing to donate more money for improvements. Curt then asked if BRAAC would have any input on the 321 bypass project. Scott stated that the Town will be in charge of maintenance and up keep once it is completed. Melissa then asked Bo if the Garden Club discussed the front of the park landscaping. Anne said that their recent meeting was planning the June in Bloom activities. Bo then asked Jennifer if Jean Baskins had contacted her about the Gossip Park sign and she stated no. Bo said he would contact her. Scott then stated that he received a letter from Jennifer Chic requesting to be on the BRAAC board. It is on June's Town Council agenda and she will fill Myra Scoggins term which will end February 2016. Scott then stated that the Town had Vermont Youth Corp. do a detailed assessment of the Glen Burney Trail and a cost estimate for the improvements. It was a significant amount; however Cobb Milner has offered to fundraise to help pay for the main safety concerns which cost approximately \$15,000. Scott then stated that Town Council received a draft agreement from NCDOT for improvement of the median on 321 near the Parkway entrances. NCDOT has a capital budget for median improvements. The improvements will cost approximately \$110,000 which includes stonework, plantings, etc. The Town will have to maintain the median once the project is complete. Scott then mentioned the Gateways that were drawn up by the Appalachian State graduate class. There was a gateway at the South and North end of 321, Sunset, and 221. The estimated total cost to implement their proposal is \$1,000,000. Tom Lucido, who is a landscape designer, created a new design for the gateways pro bono. The sign is rock with evergreens behind, flowers in front, and up lighting on it at night. Scott stated that the TDA understands and appreciates the importance of the new gateways and funded \$150,000 to go toward this project. Anne and Melissa both agreed that the newest gateway design from Tom Lucido is softer and feels more like Blowing Rock. Curt asked if Town Council has ever considered estate planning. Scott replied that John Aldridge is changing the Blowing Rock Chamber Foundation to the Blowing Rock Legacy Foundation to help with fundraising and economic development in Town. Bo stated that there is significant money with families to spearhead economic growth in Blowing Rock.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held July 2, 2015 at Town Hall at 5:30pm.