

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

BRAAC Members Attending: Bo Henderson, Curt Andrews, Anne Barnes, Melissa Pickett, Deborah McDowell, and Jennifer Chic

BRAAC Members Absent: Barbara Wright

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

The meeting was called to order by Bo at 5:36 pm.

**Approve June 4th, 2015 Minutes-** Anne made a motion to approve the minutes, Melissa seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection-** Jennifer stated that \$650 came in for July for the hanging basket donations. The hanging basket donations start coming in during May and June. With the new fiscal year budget starting in July, BRAAC is already a third of the way there for estimated revenue during the fiscal year of 2015-2016. Jennifer mentioned that BRAAC has spent \$5,892.03 in expenditures during this fiscal year of 2015-2016 so far. Jennifer mentioned that she has put in the request for a grant from the Community Foundation, and expects to receive a response in November.

**Annual Fundraising Letter-** Jennifer and Sharon updated the list of residents for this year, and the general donation letters have been mailed. Jennifer stated that she will check with Sharon to make sure they have gone out.

**Mayview Park-** Bo asked if the Mayview Residents were able to pay the Town, is there enough manpower from the Town to maintain Mayview Park permanently. Scott stated that if the Town were to go this route it would likely be addressed through a restricted donation. He also stated that this approach needs to be discussed with Town Council if the Mayview Park HOA chooses to donate funds to raise the service level. Melissa asked if this needs to be a written agreement. Scott answered yes, because Mayview Park is on Town Property and we need to set a level of expectation to make sure everyone is satisfied. Bo then stated that he has had residents of Mayview ask him if there is a way the Town could work with Mayview Residents and have rocks placed in the deep ditches for safety reasons. Scott replied to Bo and stated that this is a common occurrence around Town, but at this point we need residents to bring these issues to our attention so we can solve these problems.

**Project List-** Jennifer suggested before the next meeting that BRAAC members need to walk around Town with Chris to look at the condition of each park. She mentioned that the goal for the tour is for BRAAC to help staff prioritize a list of what projects need to be done to these parks and then when we contact the families who have parks named after them we will have specific projects and costs for each component.

**321 Gateways and Median-** Scott stated that there was a conference call last week that focused on the design of the 321 North median. The main concern that was brought up to DOT was the issue of salt, brine, and the collection of snow when plowed. The meeting also proposed ideas for possible areas for a Blowing Rock Gateway sign. The next meeting will have a more finalized plan for the median. Bo asked what role does BRAAC or the Town have in the median maintenance. Scott stated that the Town will maintain the area, and BRAAC could help with the design and feedback about various types of plantings.

**Other Business-** Bo asked if the park on the back side of the school was the Town responsibility or the schools. Anne answered that it is the schools, and the Town cannot do anything to it because the property is owned by Watauga County. Curt asked if any community members could help teach the students, or do anything to help with that park. After further discussion, Scott stated that he will get in contact with the Superintendent of Watauga County Schools first to see where they stood on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Town Hall at 5:30 pm.