

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
May 4, 2017

BRAAC Members Attending: Curt Andrews, Bo Henderson, Melissa Pickett, Deborah McDowell, Jennifer Chick

Staff Members: Jennifer Brown, Chris Pate, Ricky Hudson, and Ed Evans

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

Approve April 6, 2017 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve the minutes, Curt seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: To date, revenue is \$100 short of \$20,000 for the general fund but \$3,300 over on hanging basket donations, \$725 over on cemetery donations, and \$355 over in grants received. Expenses to date are \$55.96 which was sent on donation letter postage. There is currently a balance of \$26,000. Approximately \$10,000 for flowers for hanging baskets and planters will be taken from this and will be delivered after Mother's Day. Melissa suggested some of this money be used for tree removal and replacement in Memorial Park. Bo stated the Town needed to move quickly on the tree issue because of the safety concerns and recommendation for removal presented in the Tree Study. He continued to state they should be immediately replaced with specimens of a variety of species to avoid a similar situation of simultaneous death in the future. Jennifer Chick added that policies should be implemented that provided BRAAC with the authority to make decisions regarding tree maintenance based on professional recommendations in the future. Curt then asked what steps needed to be taken to move forward on this issue. Ed stated that the recommendation would go before council, they would be presented with the Tree Study again, and from there they would decide on how to proceed. Ed also stated the TDA had requested a line item in their budget of \$25,000 to fund the removal and replacement of 8 trees over the next fiscal year but until budget workshops are completed, we won't know if this allocation of monies will be approved by council. Bo moved the recommendation be taken before council to move forward with removal and replacement of trees based on the recommendations of the Tree Study and landscaping staff. Curt seconded. Deborah recommended adding in recommended removal and planting schedules to this recommendation. It was a unanimous vote to approve.

Clean-Up Day 5-6-2017: Jennifer Brown stated the weather on Saturday would be 42 degrees with rain and wind and that a council member had approached her and asked that the Clean-up Day be rescheduled to another day with more conducive weather. She also stated that Suzy Green had already called requesting bags and maps to participate. Jennifer then proceeded to pose the question of what if Clean-up Day was moved to coincide with the Town's currently existing Clean-Up Week. In doing this, participants would be able to pick a time and day that worked best for their schedule instead of limiting them to one opportunity. Curt expressed his agreement with this decision and stated it would have to be implemented next year because this year had already been advertised for Saturday, May 6th. Jennifer Brown then asked if BRAAC felt that Saturday should be cancelled due to the forecasted inclement weather. It was a unanimous vote to cancel the event.

Bo and Melissa recommended taking further action next year to get business owners more vested in the event and to feel more personal responsibility to help. Curt recommended we get more groups, i.e. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and various civic and religious groups, involved. He also recommended placing a tickler on the BRAAC calendar for January 2018 to make sure BRAAC could be more proactive in advertising to make the event larger with more involvement.

By-laws Discussion & Update: Curt presented recommendations for changes to the ordinance and by-laws of BRAAC. In the ordinance, Curt recommended the following changes;

16-3.61.5 Change to 5

B- Eliminate conscientious and faithful

16-3.6.2- Elect a chair and vice-chair. Change 3 to 5.

Exhibit A- 16-3.6.3 B8 Eliminate spring and fall planting days. Change clean-up day to clean-up week.

16-3.6.5 Add an open quote.

In the by-laws, Curt recommended the following changes;

Article 2- change "of filling available duties as needed" to "of meeting the mission of the commission."

Article 3- Change 9 to 5. Remove space between 2 and the period. Change to "Vacancies shall be reported to council for their consideration for fulfillment."

Article 4- Section 1- Remove secretary and full-time residents

Section 2- change to chair and vice-chair and eliminate secretary.

Article 5- Remove

Article 6- Section 2-Change 5 to 3.

Section 4- Change to "All such records shall be filed and in the possession of the Town of Blowing Rock."

Section 6- Put old business before new business.

Ed stated that these changes must have a public hearing because they are changing an ordinance. He asked the board if they wanted to see the changes in writing at the next meeting or if the changes should be made and presented to council at the next council meeting. The board agreed to go ahead and present the changes to council for approval. Ed stated at the wishes of the board changes will be presented at the next council meeting and a hearing would be scheduled for July.

Other Business: Jennifer Brown gave a history of the fountain in Mayview Lake and how it pertained to BRAAC. She stated Virginia Jones, former BRAAC president, suggested a fountain be placed in Mayview Lake many years ago. Council approved this decision contingent on BRAAC paying the power bill. Jennifer continued to state that the fountain in Mayview Lake is now broken and Chris had received a quote of \$2,740.01 for a replacement pump and new line. Ricky suggested we pursue another quote from a gentleman whom already cares for the pond monthly to provide regular preventative maintenance to prevent this in the future. Curt asked how long the pump had lasted? Jennifer stated 12 or 13 years. Deborah then asked if the rest of the fountain could be used with the new pump and line. Chris stated that pumps are built specifically for unique housings and that a new housing would most likely be needed as well. Melissa recommended Chris and Ricky have the original pump company

provide an estimated time frame of delivery and implementation of the pump and line and have Skip, Ricky's recommended source, do the same.

Jennifer Brown stated the dredging of Mayview Lake had been cancelled for this year due to the lack of bids presented for the project. Ed stated the Town hosted a bid opening and received no bids. He continued to state that a bid opening will be held this fall to plan dredging for next spring in the "Trout Window" from April through October. Ricky added that at Chetola, they had implemented diffusers throughout the pond that aerated the water from the bottom up, which promoted the breakdown of the organic matter which reduced the need for dredging. Chris added that in replacing the pump and line for the fountain, that if done strategically, diffusers could be implemented as well. Curt asked that Chris and Ricky go ahead and get bids for both the diffusers and the pumps. Melissa added that if this project is time sensitive, decisions regarding funding could be made via email if a decision was needed before the next BRAAC meeting.

Jennifer Brown gave an update on the wall project at Broyhill Park. She stated everything was cleaned up but there was no grass. She explained that worried brides had been calling the office asking if there would be grass for their event. There isn't enough time to hydro seed or seed by hand and have grass in time for these events. She then stated that Chris had obtained a quote of \$3,500 for sod to be put down in Broyhill Park and requested that BRAAC fund the project. Bo moved to fund the project, Melissa seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Chris stated that himself, Ricky and Ed attended the first Garden Club meeting of the year. He reported that everything went well and he feels they developed a great relationship that will prove to be fruitful in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.