

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
September 7, 2017

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

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

Approve June 1, 2017 Minutes: Curt stated that fic needed to be changed to fix. Bo made a motion to approve with the change, Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that the new budget started July 1st and nothing has been spent or collected since then. Jennifer also stated that the annual fundraising letter was mailed out this week and people should be receiving them no later than next week.

Blue Ridge Electric Grant: Melissa stated that after looking in to the grant application further she realized that to apply BRACC had to be a 501 (c)(3) organization. She stated that if there was more time she may have been able to research further and figure out how BRAAC could still apply since technically they are a nonprofit but there was not enough time to accomplish that. Jennifer also stated that Town Council wanted to approve the conceptual plan that Virginia Tech designed before we would be able to start requesting funding for that project. Melissa asked if we could discuss with Nicole Norman, Finance Director, about BRAAC possibly becoming a 501 (c)(3) to apply for grants for non-profits.

Broyhill Foundation Donation: Jennifer stated that the second installment of \$30,000 from the Broyhill Foundation was received. She also stated that after Town Council approves the Virginia Tech conceptual plan for the Broyhill/American Legion bank she will contact them at the end of the year to present them with the plan and a cost estimate to request additional funding to complete the project.

Virginia Tech Conceptual Plan Update: Jennifer stated that Town Council is going to discuss the conceptual plan from Virginia Tech and approve it or parts of it. Once that is complete then we can start applying for grants and raising money to proceed with the plan.

NC Forestry Service Tree Report for Memorial Park Trees: Jennifer stated that Nancy Stairs from the NC Forestry Service is coming Monday, September 18th to lead groups comprised of residents and Town Council members around Memorial Park to show them and explain the condition of the trees that were in the report. Jennifer asked that BRAAC sign up for a time to participate so that they can be involved as well.

Sunset Streetscape Plan: Ed stated that Destination By Design and Town staff have been meeting with stakeholders on Sunset to receive their comments. Destination By Design will have a survey about the project for people to give their opinion on the project around September 19th and Ed encouraged BRAAC to take the survey to give their opinions.

321/Valley Boulevard Landscape Design: Jennifer stated that the conceptual design of the 321/Valley Boulevard will be presented at the Town Council during the October Town Council meeting for their approval. Once it is approved DOT will begin implementing the design.

Tree Donation Policy: Jennifer stated that a resident has requested to donate a tree for Memorial Park. Ed stated that the Town was looking to see if there is an existing policy and if there is not then BRAAC can work on drawing one up so there are guidelines for everyone.

Other Business: Melissa asked about the Public Art Policy and if it should go through BRAAC instead of creating a new Town board. Ed stated that this subject would be discussed and voted on at September's Town Council meeting. He suggested that they write a letter to the Mayor and Town Council discussing their concerns before the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.