

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
February 1, 2018

BRAAC Members Attending: Curt Andrews, Bo Henderson, and Melissa Pickett

Staff Members: Jennifer Brown and Chris Pate

This meeting was called to order by Melissa at 3:06 p.m.

Approve January 4, 2018 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve the minutes, Jennifer Chick seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer Brown stated that she was unable to get the financials but will update as soon as she can get them.

Memorial Tree & Park Bench Update: Jennifer Brown stated that Town Council asked Town staff to research and propose a Memorial Tree program to help replace the trees in Memorial Park that need to be replaced. She went through twelve different memorial tree programs and talked with six of them to find out what worked well and, if anything, what they would change. Along with Town Staff, she created three options and the pros and cons of each option. After reviewing each option and discussion from BRAAC members, it was decided to change the proposal to a Tree and Bench Donation fund. If someone wants to donate to the fund then Town staff will purchase, plant, remove, and maintain trees from that fund. If someone donates \$2000 or more, then their name will be displayed at a Town location. They preferred electronically on the kiosk that the TDA provides, however; they would be good with a central plaque with name plates added. They like electronically because it would be less of a cost to add names when donors needed to be added. Any donor who donates \$100 or more will receive a certificate recognizing their donation and all donors will receive a thank you letter.

They all agreed that if specific trees were allowed to be donated, then the possibility of donors complaining about their tree, whether or not it was being taken care of to their liking, would be prevalent. They felt it would be better for staff to allow them to decide what is needed, where they are needed, and when to plant them.

They also discussed the current park bench donations and they felt that the cost should go from \$1,500 to \$2,000 because currently it costs approximately \$1450 for a bench and plaque. There is no extra money for maintenance of the bench (sanding, staining, etc.) every few years.

Bo made a motion to accept the revised Tree and Park Bench Fund proposal. Melissa seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Project Lists: Jennifer Brown stated that during the last month's meeting Melissa asked everyone to create a list of projects that they would like to see accomplished this year and bring it to this month's meeting. After discussion it was determined that they would like the following projects at least started in 2018:

- Broyhill/American Legion Bank that Virginia Tech designed
- Annie Cannon Park Improvements

- The bridge that goes between Broyhill and Annie Cannon

Other Business: Curt wanted to discuss Clean-up Day and how the past few years have not had a lot of volunteers and wanted to try a different approach. Jennifer stated that she had talked to Mike Wilcox, the Public Works Director, and the Town's clean-up week is May 14th this year. She suggested that instead of having a Clean-up Day on a Saturday, that BRAAC coordinate it with the Town's clean-up week and allow volunteers the flexibility of what day during that week to pick up trash. Curt and Jennifer had the same idea to contact civic organizations to have them help with clean-up week as well as churches, and HOA's throughout town. Curt stated that he would submit articles for the news outlets to advertise and they all divided up the list of organizations to contact about clean-up week.

Chris gave an update on the picnic paver project and landscaping. He stated that he ordered 3 very large planters to plant trees in and place them strategically on the pavers. He stated that while he was looking for the planters he came across self-watering planters and he would like to try a couple on the American Legion deck. It holds 35 gallons of water which would water the plants for approximately three weeks. They cost approximately \$250 per planter. Bo made a motion to have BRAAC pay for two planters. Curt seconded it and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 1, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.