

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
March 1, 2018

BRAAC Members Attending: Melissa Pickett, Bo Henderson, Chris Wetmore

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

Guests: David Goodson

Approve February 1, 2018 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve, Melissa seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

BRAAC Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations and Vote: Melissa stated that Curt Andrews had resigned from BRAAC. Ed stated that Town Council will be made aware at the March Town Council meeting and then it will be advertised for a couple of weeks to see if there is any interest to fill Curt's spot. Bo then made a motion to keep Melissa as chair of BRAAC, Chris seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve. Melissa made a motion to keep Bo as Vice-Chair of BRAAC, Chris seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that the Finance Director was out with a sick child so she was unable to get an updated financial; however, she knows that nothing has been spent since last month. She will email the financials once they are updated. She stated that flower baskets and planters have been delivered to the grower to start planting. Jennifer also mentioned that Sunset businesses wanted hanging baskets on the light poles down Sunset. The poles are unable to have hanging baskets on them because they are fiberglass and not aluminum and the fiberglass poles cannot hold the weight of the hanging baskets. Ed also mentioned that they would like planters along the sidewalks just like Main Street. There were concerns with the narrow sidewalks and where planters would fit. After further discussion it was decided to have Chris Pate go down Sunset and determine where and what size planters could be added and try to get them on Sunset this Spring.

Memorial Tree & Park Bench Policy: Jennifer stated that the Memorial Tree and Park Bench Policy was approved by Town Council during the February Town Council meeting. She stated that she has received one donation for \$2,010 and one form pledging \$2,000; however, she has not received the money yet. She did say that a design and location for the sign that recognized the donors who donate \$2,000 or more needed to be made. Jennifer showed an example of a sign and there was discussion on the placement of this sign. BRAAC asked that staff come back with a design and a location for the sign to be reviewed at the April BRAAC meeting.

Memorial Park Tree Plan: Jennifer stated that all the trees and stumps had been removed from the park that were identified in the tree report. Chris Pate and Ricky Hudson have been busy going to nurseries, researching online, and making phone calls to locate the best possible trees to plant in the park. David Goodson who is a part-time resident of Blowing Rock and a wholesale nursery representative, contacted

Chris Pate and gave him several nurseries to call and see if they had a good stock of trees. David stated that Bold Spring Nursery that we are getting eleven trees from is a very reputable nursery and the trees that the Town is purchasing are very nice trees. Chris Wetmore asked if there was any concern with it coming from Georgia which is a zone 8 and being planted in a zone 6. David stated that because the tree is a zone 6 tree it didn't matter which zone it was grown in. Chris Wetmore also asked to consider planting chestnut trees and pawpaw trees in Broyhill and Annie Cannon as the need arises. Chris Pate stated that he wanted to create a Master Plan for Memorial Park so that when other trees need to come down we have a plan and know what we are going to plant. Everyone agreed and told Chris Pate to move forward with getting pricing on having a landscape architect, with his help, design a master plan for Memorial Park.

Project Lists (Broyhill/American Legion Bank): Jennifer stated that she received an estimate of \$900,000 to implement the Virginia Tech Plan for just the American Legion/Broyhill bank. She stated that we have \$30,000 and instead of asking for the difference to implement that project, she suggested that we use the \$30,000 to add on to the rock wall around the lake to control erosion and build a new bridge that goes between the upper and lower ponds. Once that is complete then we can approach the Broyhill Foundation again and show them what we have done with their \$60,000 donation and what we have left to do. Everyone agreed that would be the best course of action.

Bo made a motion to adjourn, Melissa seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve. The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 5, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.