

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
June 28, 2018

BRAAC Members Attending: Melissa Pickett, Bo Henderson, Chris Wetmore, and Carol Knapp

BRAAC Members Absent: Karen Diamond

Guests: Emily Ferrell, Tony Jones, and Darren Church

Staff Members: Jennifer Brown and Chris Pate

Approve May 5, 2018 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve the minutes, Chris seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that she would update them in August because the month has not been closed out to date.

Public Art Proposal: Jennifer stated that she had a request from Emily Ferrell to paint a mural on a building in Town. She is a graduate from ASU with a major in art. She showed some of her art work and other murals that she has done in other cities. She then showed the group a sketch that was her idea to put in Blowing Rock. The group loved her idea; however, Bo stated that she needed to find a location and get permission from the owner of the building to put a mural on the building, get an exact size, and cost of the mural. Emily stated that she will work on all of this and hopefully come back with all this information for our August meeting.

Memorial for Fallen Police Officers: Police chief, Tony Jones, stated that currently there was a small memorial in front of Town Hall that recognizes William Greene, who was a former police chief for the Town, that was killed in the line of duty. He said that there are possibly four other officer who have been killed either in the line of duty or while employed with the Town. Tony stated that he would like to have one memorial in front of Memorial Park directly adjacent to the Memorial and flag pole that is currently there. Jennifer stated that the Memorial Park sign used to be there but had to be moved because it blocked the view of people who sat on the benches. Tony stated that he didn't want it at the police department because no one would see it. Bo stated that the Garden Club needed to be contacted before we did anything to the flower bed. Jennifer stated that Luke, the Town's stone mason, has determined that the entire rock wall needs to be redone because it is falling apart and if we add a memorial there it may be a larger project than expected. Ed suggested that maybe BRAAC members and the police department should go look and determine the best location. Darren stated the Memorial would be bronze to match the other memorial and he wasn't sure how long it would take to have it completed. The cost of the memorial is \$7,000. Everyone loved the idea of having one memorial for the police department but a location needed to be determined first.

Tree Fund Recognition/Wording for Tree: Jennifer stated that the tree has been ordered and is in the process of being made. She stated that BRAAC needs to determine the wording that needs to go on it.

Melissa suggested that the restrooms get painted the same color as the other town buildings before the tree gets installed.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Jennifer stated that after beginning the process of updating the Parks & Recreation Master Plan that it would not be necessary to have a Master Plan for Memorial Park. She stated that McGill and Associates have begun surveying the public online and in person and she encourages everyone to participate.

Other Business: Ed stated a group called the Charters of Freedom contacted him about putting up replica copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution, just like the originals in Washington D.C. Jennifer and Ed met with two representatives, Ron Lewis and David Streater, to discuss the details, costs, and interest. A gentleman by the name of Vance Patterson and his wife visited Washington D.C. and realized how awesome it was to see these documents in person and sad it was that many people across the United States would not get to see them. They decided that want to put replicas in every county across the united Sates and they are starting in Western North Carolina. Ed stated that Vance Patterson will be presenting this to Town Council on September 11, 2018 during the meeting. He also stated that is free unless we upgrade from brick to rock on the outside of the boxes and then the Town would have to come up with the cost difference. Chris Wetmore asked if they were backlit so they could be read at night and Ed said none of the ones they have put up are but it could be considered. Chris Wetmore said that there are a lot of people that walk at night so that should be considered. Ed stated that he and Jennifer thought of a few placed to put this display. Near the 1888 Museum, front of Town Hall, and then Melissa stated at the corner of the Library. After discussion everyone like the corner of the Library the best.

Melissa state that Ed forwarded an email about another mural artist by the name of Michael Cooper who owns Murals & More out of Franklin, Tennessee. He is interested in creating a mural as well and the cost would be around \$35,000. Chris Wetmore states that his sister-in-law is an artist as well and he can talk to her about recommending artists if BRAAC was interested.

Chris Wetmore inquired about some of the trees in the park. He stated that a Poplar has lost its leaves and the Oak tree, that was planted 2 years ago, was looking bad. Chris pate said that after the Oak tree was planted, the Town had a company and fix some stamped concrete near it. The company dumped its tailings on the mulch that was around the tree and he tried to clean it up as best as he could but he is pretty sure that is what is killing the tree. He said he wasn't giving up on the Poplar tree because he is hopeful it is just in shock. He is working with a gentleman on some specific fertilizer for all the trees.

Chris made a motion to adjourn, Carol seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 2, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.