

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
August 2, 2018

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

BRAAC Members Absent: Karen Diamond

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

Guests: Emily Ferrell

Approval of June 28, 2018 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve, Carol seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Public Art Proposal-Emily Ferrell: Emily returned to BRAAC with a proposed building and design. She stated she had been in contact with Bob Lovern, who owns the NECO building, and had been working on a design with him. It incorporates a tree as well as native animals. It would be able to be seen on the Sunset side and it would also be partly on the backside of the building. Everyone really liked the design but had concerns of it not being visible with cars parked in front of it. It was determined that if Mr. Lovern was willing to pay for the art drawing then the Town would not have to be involved and the project could move forward immediately. If Mr. Lovern will not pay for the project, then BRAAC will have to approve paying for it and it would have to be approved by Town Council. Emily stated she would be back in touch with Mr. Lovern and then inform us of his decision.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer stated that the new budget started July 1st and no money has been collected and \$22.85 has been spent on the watering truck. Jennifer presented the final numbers of the 17'-18' budget; however, they could change some once the audit is completed. She stated that overall BRAAC collected \$34,250.74 which is \$885.74 more than projected. She then stated that BRAAC only spent \$19,966.65 which is \$13,398.35 less than projected. Melissa stated that BRAAC need to look at projects that they can help fund and Ed stated that there are opportunities such as adding a set of stairs on the police department bank where people use as a short cut and many people fall. Jennifer stated that Nicole Norman could give BRAAC fund balance numbers once the audit was complete and then BRAAC can determine what projects they want to complete.

Tree Fund Recognition/Wording for Tree: Jennifer stated that the tree for recognizing donors of \$2,000 or more is close to completion. She stated that the company has been in contact for finalizing the project. She asked that BRAAC be thinking of the wording to put above the tree when it comes in. She also stated that the building was also going to be painted before the tree was installed.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Jennifer gave an update on the Master Plan. She stated that two public meetings were held, and a survey has been out and that a lot of great information had been gathered. McGill is now in the process of completing parts of the Master Plan for the Recreation Oversight Group to revise. There is progress, and everyone is excited to see the final plan.

Donation Letter Revision: Jennifer stated she would send out last year's donation letter to everyone and they can send back any suggestions on changes that need to be made. Melissa asked when the letter would be sent out and Jennifer stated once the addresses were received and the letter was finalized the goal would be to send it out no later than the end of August.

Other Business: Ed updated everyone on the new possible location for the Police Memorial. They are looking at having Chris Pate help them landscape the front of the Police Department beds where the boxwoods are located and put it to the right of the front doors. After some discussion everyone agreed with that location.

Chris Wetmore asked about the median at the Parkway and if there was any help for it. Chris Pate stated that he had been in there weeding and weed eating the worse parts. He said that his hopes are to be able to spend more time in there now that things have calmed down.

Melissa presented the group a form that she designed for people to fill out if they were requesting to put up any public art and asked the group to look over it and make any recommended changes they see necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.