

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission
Minutes
January 10, 2019

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

Staff Members: Jim Freeman, Jennifer Brown, Hilari Hubner, and Kevin Rothrock

Town Council: Charlie Sellers, Albert Yount, Virginia Powell, Doug Matheson, Sue Sweeting, and Jim Steele

This meeting was called to order by Melissa at 9:00 a.m.

Public Art Policy: Melissa stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the two Public Art Policies, the original policy that had not been approved yet and the new draft that BRAAC presented, before retreat so that Council could know why BRAAC was suggesting some of the changes. She stated that the reason for the new draft policy with an application was because BRAAC had a few public art requests come to them and realized that Jennifer had to do extra leg work to get details of the art piece for BRAAC to be able to make an educated decision. She also stated that when the Dangerfield piece went up at Edgewood Cottage, Chris had to go and landscape that piece several times until the artist was happy and BRAAC's goal is to make sure all parties are aware of expectations from the beginning.

Sue stated that the original policy had been approved by Town Council. She stated that when Ed Evans was here, he went back and found that Council did approve the policy. She stated that the discussion she was going to have at retreat was to recommend a sub-committee to BRAAC for public art because she is concerned that there may not be enough knowledge on the BRAAC board. She stated that the reason we even have a public art policy is because when DOT was getting closer to completing the 321 bypass, people were approaching them to put up art pieces along the corridor. Albert stated that DOT was getting cold feet and did not want to make those decisions, so they turned it over to the Town.

Sue did not like that the new proposed policy did not regulate anything on private property, just Town property. Melissa stated that there was another draft that did include Central Business and Town Center; however, her board voted against it. Chris Wetmore responded with the reason he voted against it is because he felt that if it is private property then they can put up anything on their property because it is theirs. Bo agreed with Chris.

After further discussion on what areas could and could not be regulated Virginia stated that the two policies really needed to be meshed together. She liked the application so that when someone requests to put up public art they know the expectations and the Town knows all the details. Sue asked if there should be a committee that recommends to BRRAC and then BRAAC makes a recommendation to Town Council. Albert stated that he wouldn't have voted to have each member of BRAAC on the board if he didn't feel that they couldn't handle being on the board. He felt adding another committee would cause more problems. Jim agreed and stated that if BRAAC feels they need to bring in a professional then they can make that determination. He also stated that as they bring on new members, they can make sure there is diversity on the board. Albert stated that BRAAC is a diverse group and he hopes that they don't have to rely on others from outside of BRAAC.

Melissa stated that she would take both policies and put them together. Once she has the draft completed she will send it out for review and approval to the BRAAC board and then Jennifer will send it to Town Council for their review before retreat.

Approve December 6, 2018 Minutes: Bo made a motion to approve the minutes, Curt seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection: Jennifer Brown stated to date, the midpoint of the year, \$26,400 has been collected leaving BRAAC \$1,250 over our total goal for the year. The expenses year to date total \$9,856.79.

2019 Projects: Melissa stated that she would like to split into two small groups, one to work on updating the Broyhill presentation and projects, and one to work on other project priorities. She stated that Curt should work on Broyhill since he started that project's presentation. Melissa then stated that he should get together with Jennifer and Chris to work on updating the presentation.

2019 Priority List: Jennifer Brown stated that a priority for projects really needs to be Annie Cannon. She stated that it really needs some attention, but it will take some money to really make an improvement. Bo stated that he would get in touch with Mary Bost Gray and have an informal meeting with her to see if the family would be interested in donating some money. Melissa asked if Chris could work on a drawing for Annie Cannon to be able to show to potential donors and Jennifer stated she would have him work on it.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.