

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
March 7, 2019

BRAAC Members Attending: Curt Andrews, Melissa Pickett, Chris Wetmore

Staff Members: Jennifer Brown, Chris Pate

BRAAC Members Absent: Bo Henderson, Carol Knapp

This meeting was called to order by Melissa at 9:05 a.m.

**Approve January 10, 2019 Minutes:** Curt made a motion to approve the minutes, Chris Wetmore seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection:** Jennifer Brown stated to date, \$28,020 has been collected leaving BRAAC \$1,275 over our total goal for the year. The expenses year to date total \$10,619.07, which leaves a balance of \$16,125.93 to be spent.

**2019 Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations and Vote:** Chris Wetmore made a motion for Melissa to remain as Chair and Curt to be the Vice-Chair, Curt seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Public Art Policy/Application Update:** Jennifer Brown stated that Melissa, Jim Freeman (interim town manager), and herself had a meeting with Sue Sweeting and Charlie Sellers about the Art Policy on Tuesday. It was decided at the meeting that the Public Art Policy that the Town has is the one BRAAC will follow; however, BRAAC could come up with an application and process for anyone interested in putting up Public Art. Melissa stated that it was a good meeting and was very productive. She asked that everyone look over the application and please send her any recommendations for changes or additions and then they could address it at the next BRAAC meeting. Curt asked where the policy would be in the Town code to put it on the application and Jennifer stated that she would get with Kevin to get the exact location for the application.

**Landscape Assistant Update:** Jennifer stated that they had four interviews for the position and they made an offer and are hopeful he will take it.

**Legacy Trail Update:** Jennifer stated that it was brought to the Town's attention that the stairs that are in the middle of the trail that leads to business 321 were in bad shape. The Town had their insurance carrier's risk assessment field consultant come and look at the stairs and determined that not only were the stairs not safe, but they also lead people out into the road at a blind curve. She recommended the Town close them off until her concerns were addressed. Jennifer stated that the Town's engineer firm was going to look at them and come up with some options to replace, relocate, or another solution all together. Curt stated that many people in Laurel Park were upset that they were closed and that he was glad it was being investigated further.

**Water Truck:** Jennifer stated that she is asking to replace the water truck in the 2019/2020 budget; however, if approved, that funding would not be available until July. She stated that watering begins in mid-May and is uncertain if the current water truck will make it. Chris Pate stated that he is trying to have a backup plan in case if it didn't make it and is looking at either leasing or potentially using one of

our current trucks on a temporary basis. Melissa stated that BRRAC is willing to help fix the old one until the new one comes if necessary.

**Memorial Park Trees/Master Plan:** Chris Pate stated that after last year and having to take down twelve trees in Memorial Park and all the citizens who were upset, that the Town really needs a Master Plan for just the park. He stated that he does not want to be put in the same situation again because he knows more trees are going to have to be replaced in the near future. He really would like to have the park surveyed and then have a Master Plan created. Melissa stated that if a plan is done then the more detail the better even if it had to be modified some. Jennifer stated that she was requesting this in next year's budget but is unsure if it will get funded. Melissa stated that the Town should pay for the survey; however, if the Town does not fund the Master Plan then she could see BRAAC helping with the cost.

**Sunset Streetscape:** Jennifer stated that Town Council approved the Sunset Streetscape project during the February Town Council Meeting. Chris Pate stated that after the meeting he was asked to see if there were any other places that cost could be cut and realized that there was only one tree being planted from Ransom Street to Main Street. He has some concerns; however, he feels that is too late to make any changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

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