

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
August 1, 2019  
Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Melissa Pickett, Curt Andrews, Carol Knapp, Bo Henderson, & Chris Wetmore

Staff Present: Shane Fox & Jennifer Brown

Begin: 9:05 a.m.

End: 11:15 a.m.

**Approve June 20, 2019 Minutes:** Curt made a motion to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes, Carol seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection:** Jennifer stated that she would email last and current fiscal year's budget sheets when Nicole was back in the office.

**Memorial Park Playground Update:** Jennifer stated that the free mulch that was given for the climbing wall had to be removed because it was blowing all over the park. She stated that the park was also in the process of being surveyed and once the survey was complete then a Master Plan of the park would be created. She stated that the Town wanted to make sure we had a plan because there was a lot of need in the park and a plan would help execute the need. Shane stated that there is bond money for Parks and Recreation; however, we do not have to complete the specifics that were given five years ago, we just have to spend it on Parks and Recreation. Having a Master Plan would help prioritize those needs.

**Annual Fundraising Letter:** Jennifer stated that Curt created a draft of the letter that would be sent out towards the end of August and Carol suggested that we add the EIN number on the letter for donors.

**Article for Hanging Baskets:** After discussion, Bo suggested that we put the "Thank You" letter and the "In Memory" or "In Honor" recognitions for this year's hanging baskets on the back of the fundraising letter instead of an article in the newspaper. Everyone was in agreeance and loved the idea.

**Other Business:** Curt inquired about the Village Foundation and the progress that they have made on the American Legion/Broyhill bank of the Virginia Tech Plan. Shane stated that the process has slowed down a little because feedback was needed from all the stakeholders. The Village Foundation is taking their time to make sure the project is put together well before they move forward.

**Other Business:** Chris Wetmore asked if the large hill at the light of 321 bypass and 321 business will be landscape as a part of the landscape project because it is an eye sore and there is a lot of potential for that area. Shane stated that it is not part of the project; however, the contractor is working with the Town to make sure the plan works for businesses and the Town. He also stated that the contractor has stopped planting until the summer busy season is over.

**Other Business:** Melissa stated that ASU was removing a greenhouse from their campus and she thought it would be worth looking into purchasing it. She stated that Chris would have more control over the flowers if he had his own greenhouse. She suggested looking at putting it on the Cone Road property. Bo stated he was concerned with the Cone Road location and asked if there was room at the Public Works facility. Shane stated that there was no room at Public Works and that there is a plan to build a building on the Cone Road property but was not sure what that would look like or when it would happen. Chris Wetmore stated that he was concerned about having a greenhouse in Blowing Rock. He stated that he ran a greenhouse for five years and we need to look at the costs to not only run it year-round but also the start up costs. It will take a lot to get a greenhouse up and running and it should be done over time. Jennifer stated that it would take more staff seven days a week to run a greenhouse to make sure everything was running the way it was supposed to. She suggested talking to the Horticulture teacher at Watauga High School and see if they would be interested in growing flowers and

having Chris work with them and he would be close by to make sure it was being done to his specifications. Shane stated that he and Jennifer would explore that idea.

**Other Business:** Bo asked if BRAHM could have permission to remove the chain and poles form around the art piece at BRAHM. He stated it was not as large as they originally thought. Curt made the motion to remove the chains and barriers, Carol seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.