

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission

Agenda

November 7, 2019

Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission is to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the mountain landscape by providing input and advice to the Blowing Rock Staff and Town Council to help preserve and protect publicly maintained spaces.

- Approve October 3, 2019 Minutes –
  
- Sunset Project (Charles Hardin) –
  
- Frescos in Blowing Rock (Roger Nelson) –
  
- Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection –
  
- Christmas Decorations –
  
- Other Business –

Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission  
Minutes  
October 3, 2019  
Town Council Chambers 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Melissa Pickett, Chris Wetmore, Carol Knapp, & Bo Henderson  
Staff Present: Shane Fox, Chris Pate, Baker Stanley & Jennifer Brown  
Begin: 9:04 a.m.  
End: 11:30 a.m.

**Approve September 5, 2019 Minutes:** Bo made a motion to approve the September 5, 2019 minutes, Melissa seconded, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Budget Update/Annual Fundraising Collection/Hanging Basket Collection:** Jennifer stated that BRAAC has received \$13,490 in general donations, \$3,900 for hanging baskets/planters, and \$2,110 for the cemetery for a total of \$19,500. A total of \$2,991.68 has been spent on the PO Box rental fee and the donation letter requests. Jennifer stated that a little more would be spent on sending out thank you notes and resending letters that were returned.

**Annual Fundraising Letter:** Jennifer stated that even after checking the list many times, there were several returns that the address had to be researched. She stated that there was positive feedback from having the donor list added to the donation request letter.

**Christmas Decorations:** Jennifer stated that last year BRAAC purchased three twenty-one-foot tree of lights to place in the park to be lit instead of lighting the new trees that were planted. She stated that after discussion with Chris Pate, they felt adding two smaller trees between the large trees would add more lights and give the front of the park a more realistic look. Jennifer also showed a tree topper that could potentially be added to the tops of all or some of the trees. The total for the two trees and two tree toppers would cost approximately \$6,000. Carol was hesitant about the tree toppers and Jennifer stated she would ask about sending them back if we did not like them or maybe they could send us a demo. Bo made a motion to approve purchasing the two trees and two tree toppers, if we like them, with fund balance, Melissa seconded it, and it was a unanimous vote to approve.

**Other Business:** Melissa stated that she would like for the Town to move forward with requesting more funding from the Broyhill Foundation because the \$60,000 that they donated has been spent. After further discussion, it was unanimous to move forward with requesting more funds to continue the improvements in Broyhill.

**Other Business:** Chris Pate gave an update on the Valley Boulevard landscaping that is contracted with Piedmont. Shane Fox stated that Town staff has spent many hours working with DOT and Piedmont working to be proactive instead of reactive. DOT admitted to allowing some things slide thinking it would be fine; however, realized it was not afterwards. Chris Wetmore asked when they would be planting, what they would be planting, and how they would be planting, and Shane stated that we are not micromanaging but instead working with them. Everything seems to be coming along and hopefully after the dry spell is gone, they can resume to planting again. Piedmont's goal is to be completed and have it all turned over to the Town by summer of 2021. Bo asked if the Town was aware of the need to have more employees to maintain Valley Boulevard once it was turned over and Shane stated yes and that we have some time to come up with a plan for once the project is complete.