

SOUTHERN PINES APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2016

Present: Carol Haney, Birtha Shaw, Cos Barnes, Teresa Lenahan, Penelope Ham, and Jeff Kelly

Staff Present: Debra Fisher, Adam Lindsay, and Jack Taylor

Carol Haney asked if minutes had been read. Cos Barnes made a motion to approve, Teresa Lenahan seconded, approved.

Landscape/Trees/Planters

Tree Concerns: Teresa Lenahan stated that the Tree Committee will be reviewing one tree removal request on Pennsylvania Ave. Teresa Lenahan stated that there were concerns about the lack of growth of the new trees planted on Broad St. so we will need to keep an eye on them this Spring to see how they are progressing. Adam Lindsay asked if there was an overall plan on how we determine what we place around the base of the trees because there seems to be some inconsistency with the use of bricks, grates or nothing around the base of the trees. Jack Taylor stated that the grates are placed around the trees when they are first planted to protect the trees and when the trees grow, the roots will pick the grates up, so they move them. The Town will continue putting in the grates to protect the trees during the early years and as they grow out we will remove the grates.

Etalia Tree Planting: Jack Taylor stated that they will be planting six longleaf pines and two crepe myrtles by early February to replace the trees that were removed at Etalia on W. Pennsylvania Ave.

General Appearance

Elder Heart: Jeff Kelly stated that he had received preliminary landscape plans from Elder Heart for the landscape design in front of the Finance building. The plans show a general idea without a lot of detail as far as the names of plant materials. The plans are not showing enough plantings but adds a lot of grass area instead, so we need to have a meeting to come up with a unified plan. Adam Lindsay stated that he would like to have Jack Taylor and Chris Kennedy sit in on the meeting as well and we should decide on a style that will be low maintenance so that when we meet with Elder Heart we will be able to give them a better understanding of what we are looking for.

Adopt-A-Street: Jack Taylor stated the sign has been placed on Country Club Dr. for the newest member, Daughters of the American Revolution, and that they have put together a list of town streets that need to be adopted for Leslie Habits. Adam Lindsay stated we have expanded the options for streets to adopt because up to this point we've only been talking about town maintained streets which is all we can assign. We gave Leslie Habits a contact with D.O.T. for how to adopt state roads if that is what people would rather do. We just can't manage them.

Morganton Road Update: Adam Lindsay, stated that he was told in his last conversation with D.O.T. that the project to plant trees along the US1 interchange has been delayed. Teresa Lenahan, stated that

she was concerned that if the plants were not planted until April they would not survive. Adam Lindsay stated that per DOT they should be planted in time.

Adam Lindsay stated that the Appearance Committee needs to develop a plan for how to change the landscaping along the entire median on Morganton Rd. The future of the median is going to be more cuts into the median due to possible commercial development in the future so we should change the landscaping to something simple such as crape myrtles and mulch for maintenance purposes. D.O.T. previously indicated that there may be funding available to change that landscape but a plan would have to be submitted and prioritized with other funding requests. Adam Lindsay asked Teresa Lenahan, Jack Taylor, and Penelope Ham to come up with two or three options to take to D.O.T. as a recommendation because they will have to make the final approval.

Christmas Decorations: Penelope Ham stated that the wreaths were relocated for a more condensed area this year. We also sent a letter to the Southern Pines Business Association concerning the number of Christmas trees not being decorated until late December. The letter was well received by them and they made sure that the trees were decorated. Adam Lindsay stated we wanted the trees decorated by the 1st of December but the Christmas tree lighting downtown was done on Thanksgiving weekend. Penelope Ham stated that they would adjust the date to have the trees decorated next year. Adam Lindsay stated it would be nice if the Business Association gave out awards for the Christmas tree decorations in categories and announced the winners at the Christmas tree lighting next year so that people would know where they are located. Carol Haney asked what Christmas Decorations needed to be replaced for next year. Penelope Ham stated that they would like to purchase five new wreaths to complete the area because they had to skip a couple of the poles this year and would like to ask for a 150 berry clusters to replace the old clusters.

Building and Property Improvements: Adam Lindsay stated that there were three abandoned home demolitions located at 281 S Henley St, 358 Henley St., and 792 W. New York Ave. Birtha Shaw stated that there is an abandon home located at Gaines and Pennsylvania Ave. Adam Lindsay stated that if illegal activity is going on at private property call the police and they will check it out and if it is a code enforcement issue contact Joy Richards with Planning, and she will open up an active case and contact the owners of the property.

Pinecrest High School Circle: Carol Haney stated that since Ellen Slusher could not attend the meeting they would wait until the next meeting to discuss the Pinecrest High School Circle.

New signage for US #1: Carol Haney stated that the welcome to Southern Pines sign located on US 1 South is too small for oncoming traffic to see so we are trying to get a larger sign to place there and take the current sign and move it to US #1 business. Discussion ensued about the size and cost of a new sign along US Hwy 1 southbound near Midland Rd. General agreement was achieved towards moving that existing sign to the new location at the split of US Hwy 1 northbound and Old US Hwy 1.

Arbor Day: Penelope Ham stated that they are looking at having Arbor Day on March 18th at 10:30 and will be replacing two longleaf pines at the Southern Pines Library. Adam Lindsay stated let's make sure they are prepared in case we need to go inside because of the weather and maybe have Lynn Thompson read either a book or a poem to the 3rd graders that will be attending.

Pots: Carol Haney asked are we are going to get the Master Gardeners to do the planters again. Teresa Lenahan stated that she had asked them at their last meeting to give her a list of plant materials needed

and we will do the rest. Also, this year, to help with water retention, maybe we could go with a thick layer of mulch to help retain some of the water. Adam Lindsay asked when the pots would be placed out. Teresa Lenahan stated she would like to have them out before Spring Fest at the end of April.

Sprucing Up Southern Pines: Carol Haney asked Birtha Shaw to be the Chair Person for Sprucing up Southern Pines and for everyone to start looking around for recommendations. Last year we turned in suggestion around April and May and we did three business and three residential.

Budget: Adam Lindsay asked what all the Appearance Committee wanted to ask for. Carol Haney stated the new sign on US 1. Adam Lindsay asked about decorative crosswalks. Carol Haney asked if they could do the ones on Pennsylvania Ave since that is a state road. Adam Lindsay stated the option for us is to patch that part with new pavement and then put it down on top of that and to do all the crosswalks from the opposite direction. The cost would be about the same price as last time of about \$30,000 to \$35,000. Carol Haney asked if everyone was in agreement to finish the crosswalk project, everyone was in agreement to finish the project. Carol Haney stated we will ask for \$35,000 for the crosswalk project, \$8,000 for Christmas decorations and \$5,000 for the new sign. Carol Haney asked if they needed to purchase anymore new pots. Teresa Lenahan asked Jack Taylor if the materials for the pots were already budgeted. Jack Taylor stated it was for the spring. Adam Lindsay stated there has been a tree project this committee has organized each year and the money is there but there is no project attached to it. Adam Lindsay suggested the committee come up with a five to ten year plan that says each year we would like to improve the appearance of this area of town by planting trees along a certain corridor or planting flower beds but minimizing the maintenance for the town. Having a plan will help Council and future committee members understand the direction of the Committee. Carol Haney stated that they need to look into if they will need to replace any pots and also the trashcan replacements. Adam Lindsay stated that we have money for the trashcans but have not decided on which ones to purchase.

New Members: Carol Haney asked everyone to ask anyone who may be interested in joining the committee.

Adjournment Penelope Ham motioned and Birtha Shaw seconded.

The next meeting will be on February 23, 2016.

Submitted by:
Debra Fisher
Town of Southern Pines