

SOUTHERN PINES APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
April 26, 2016

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

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

Guest Present: Vince Zucchini and Sean McCormick

Carol Haney asked if minutes had been read. Minutes were received late and they will be approved at the next meeting.

Introduction of applicant: Carol Haney introduced Sean McCormick as an applicant to become a new member of the Appearance Commission pending the approval from Town Council.

Landscape/Trees/Planters

Tree Concerns/Update/Pots: Teresa Lenahan reported that Pete Morris denied a tree remove request located at E. Illinois. The decision was appealed and the request was then given to the Tree Committee. The Tree Committee agreed the tree should be removed because of safety issues. Adam Lindsay stated we need to reach out to the property owner before the removal of the tree. Reagan Parsons explained the proper process should be that if the tree is not in imminent danger of coming down the property owner should fill out the paper work to have the tree removed at their own expense and then it would go thru the process of allowing it or not. Carol Haney stated that the Tree Committee feels that Pete Morris should be a consultant instead of a member of the Tree Committee since he is the Town's Tree Arborist. The Tree Committee needs to have three members so we need someone to volunteer to serve on the committee. Sean McCormick stated that he would be willing to serve on the committee pending his appointment. Teresa Lenahan stated that she and Jeff Grey are working on designs for the pots downtown. Adam Lindsay asked about the schedule. Teresa Lenahan stated that they would begin the work the first weekend of May. Teresa Lenahan inquired if there were any issues with any of the trees downtown. Jack Taylor stated the only issue is that the two trees we planted by the Library on Arbor Day have died. We checked the soil and it has irrigation so we do not know what the problem is there. Teresa Lenahan asked Penelope Ham if we are doing anything with Tree City USA. Penelope Ham stated Southern Pines has been Tree City for the past 36 years and there is another level beyond that called Tree City USA Growth Award, and it basically states that we go above and beyond. There is also a grant that Jack Taylor and I are working on getting which would be used for lower income areas.

Etalia and Morganton Rd Update: Carol Haney asked Jack Taylor if the tree planting at Etalia was done. Jack Taylor responded that the tree plantings triggered by Etalia's illegal tree removal on W. Pennsylvania have been completed. Carol Haney inquired if there was anything new for Morganton Rd. Jack Taylor stated that they will be getting started on the Morganton Rd median on Wednesday. When we take the trees out we will judge what we have left, and that may be a good place to use the money we have to place bark and maybe some crape myrtle trees. Reagan Parsons stated he has concerns about putting trees in that median when they may have to come out at some point and time so let's just make sure we target areas that we know the median will be there in five years. Adam Lindsay stated we

need to get up with the Town Engineer, Brent Lockamy, to look at possible future development, and so that everyone remembers we are using our 10,000 dollars project money for Morganton Rd this year and next year will be used for Brucewood Rd. Reagan Parsons asked Jack Taylor if they have sprayed on Brucewood he has noticed a lot of weed growth there. Jack Taylor stated that they would be working on Brucewood in the morning.

General Appearance

Sprucing Up Southern Pines: The Appearance Commission voted unanimously to approve the following winners for the Sprucing up Southern Pines awards: Golds Gym, Friend to Friend, R. Riveter, VFW, 455 N. May St., and 525 S. Mechanic St. Adam Lindsay stated that he would like to have all of them notified and confirm that they will be happy to be recognized this way and we want to invite them to attend the award ceremony. Adam Lindsay stated that on Camelia Way we have a business owner that has totally revitalized the little alley way behind the Ice Cream Parlor so we may not recognize them as this but I feel it is very important that the Appearance Commission recognize them individually for what they have done. I would like for everyone to go and view the location and think of some way we can recognize them. The recognition will take place at the May 10 Regular Town Council Meeting at 7pm.

Elder Heart: Jeff Kelly commented that he attended a reception given by Elder Heart and they unveiled a replica of the horse monument. The horse is running and to me it may be more complicated to build and I think the area is too small for it to be running. Jeff Kelly stated we want to give them specific written directions and then also meet with Elder Heart. Carol Haney stated she will contact Elder Heart to discuss the monument, and will pass on the comments we had along with Vince Zucchini's comments and thoughts.

Adopt-A-Street: Birtha Shaw stated she knows a couple of people who are interested in adopting a street and asked where they can get an Adopt-A-Street application online. Adam Lindsay stated that you can get the form on the Appearance Commission page of the Town web site.

Round-about Ideas: Penelope Ham stated that Ellen Slusher had met with Tiffany Key who is in charge of the Horticulture Dept. at Pinecrest High School and they have sent a letter to The Garden Club to see if they would consider giving a donation for the project. They hope to know something by the second week of May and if it is approved the Seniors could complete the project by the end of the school year.

Building and Property Improvements: Birtha Shaw reported that the house on the corner of New Hampshire mentioned from last week has not been cleaned up, and there are several homes she has now and will bring a list with pictures for the next meeting. Carol Haney requested that they send the owner of the business located at Cam Square a letter asking them to clean up the place.

Design for Finance Building: Vince Zucchini stated what I'm presenting to you today is a framework to consider for the courtyard in front of the finance building. The main approach is to keep a classical design and to try and keep intact most of the garden that is here and find a nice spot for the memorial. My thoughts are to place the memorial between the two cherry trees, take out the middle bench, have your walkway go up to the memorial, and limb up the cherry trees to create an arch way to walk thru, and we would still have shade trees for the benches. Carol Haney stated they would pass this on to the architect and to Elder Heart.

Public Relations

Updates: Carol Haney thanked Cos Barnes for giving the pictures of Arbor Day to the Pilot. Teresa Lenahan suggested that they submit the information and photos to Pinestraw magazine as well. Cos Barnes stated that she would check into it.

New Business

Mayor's Lighting Project: Carol Haney stated that the Mayor would like to have lighting placed in the trees around downtown so he has approached David Woronoff from the Pilot to place lights in the trees outside of the Pilot as a test program. Reagan Parson stated that there is an issue with getting electricity to them Duke Energy wants us to place meters so they can meter the electricity. Carol Haney asked if anyone was interested with helping with this. Sean McCormick stated that he would like to help with this project pending appointment. Adam Lindsay stated there are challenges but we should explore this.

Carol Haney congratulated Cos Barnes for receiving the Governor's Award for Volunteerism.

Adam Lindsay stated we are cleaning up our records for the Appearance Commission members. Every member has been appointed to terms, and our record keeping needs to be cleaned up a bit so I'm going to be bringing something to you. It is not going to change a whole lot but it might impact when your renewal time comes up. So be looking for that at our next meeting.

Adjournment Penelope Ham motioned and Birtha Shaw seconded.

The next meeting will be at 1:00pm on May 24, 2016.

Submitted by:
Debra Fisher
Town of Southern Pines