

SOUTHERN PINES APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 24, 2016

Present: Carol Haney, Birtha Shaw, Teresa Lenahan, Penelope Ham, Ellen Slusher, and Jeff Kelly

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

Guest Present: Vince Zucchini

Carol Haney asked if minutes had been read. Penelope Ham made a motion to approve, Birtha Shaw seconded to approve the minutes from March 22, 2016. Birtha Shaw made a motion to approve, Penelope Ham seconded to approve the minutes from April 26, 2016.

Introduction of applicant: Carol Haney commented that Sean McCormick's application to become a new member of the Appearance Commission has been approved by the Town Council.

Landscape/Trees/Planters

Tree Concerns/Update/Pots: Teresa Lenahan stated that Pete Morris reported a magnolia tree located on Ashe St is no longer viable and needs to come down. The Tree Committee will take a vote regarding taking the tree down. Teresa Lenahan reported that the plants are not looking well due to the lack of sun and she will give them about a week to see if there is any improvement, and that some of the pots had plants stolen from them. Jack Taylor stated that they will replace them.

Morganton Rd Update: Carol Haney inquired if there was anything new for Morganton Rd. Jack Taylor responded that they had taken the remainder of the shrubs out at the biggest median island and they will do the smaller median island this Thursday. Adam Lindsay stated that Morganton and Brucewood may be a multiyear project, and the project money for this year will be used for mulch on Morganton Rd.

Tree Fund: Carol Haney stated that she has been approached by Pete Morris and others that would like to start a fund for planting trees in someone's honor. Adam Lindsay stated it can be done and the Town will do everything to preserve and make the site a nice place but I think we should limit the signage and I would caution them that the Town cannot enter any long term commitments to maintain or replace those trees. The risk is greater if they are planted on a town right-of-way because there is always a risk that something will have to go in the right-of-way so the tree would have to be removed. Teresa Lenahan stated she would speak with Pete Morris about maybe finding a specific site for the trees.

General Appearance

Sprucing Up Southern Pines: Carol Haney stated that everyone had received their certificates for the Sprucing up Southern Pines awards, and inquired if the signs had been placed out. Jack Taylor responded that they have not placed out any of the signs but would get them out. Adam Lindsay stated that he would send Debra Fisher the pictures of the award ceremony to have placed on the Town website.

Elder Heart and Design for Finance Building: Jeff Kelly stated we met with Elder Heart and their designer Mark Parsons out on the site. We passed on our list of suggestions, thoughts, and reactions to their second set of plans along with the suggestions that Vince Zucchini had given us. Today I received Mark Parsons revised plans that added four benches and placed in more plant material. What Mark Parsons suggested at the meeting was that he come back with a plan, and that we sit down with him at his office and give him our thoughts, and go over the plan with him. Discussion ensued regarding the Committee's thoughts and ideas for the design in front of the Finance Building.

Adopt-A-Street: Teresa Lenahan commented that the Appearance Commission had adopted Memorial Park Ct. and she will get with Leslie Habets to let her know the Appearance Commission had agreed to adopt the street.

Round-about Ideas: Ellen Slusher stated that the letter Pinecrest High School sent asking for donations from The Garden Club was sent in late, and was denied. The school plans on making this their project for next year.

Building and Property Improvements: BIRTHA Shaw reported that the houses mentioned in the last meeting have not been cleaned up and she called the Cam Square location but did not receive an answer.

Public Relations

Updates: Carol Haney stated that Cos Barnes was absent.

New Business

Mayor's Lighting Project: Carol Haney provided a working plan prepared by Sean McCormick in which he stated that he had met with the Mayor regarding the lighting project. Adam Lindsay stated that the plan would need to address working with Planning regarding the lighting since this would require ordinance changes. Adam Lindsay stated that the Business Association needs to be added to the list of downtown businesses because, as written, they would have to support it. I will leave the appearance element to the Appearance Commission and from a cost perspective I prefer that the business's pay for the lighting. Adam Lindsay stated that he recommends that Sean McCormick meet with other town's that have a lighting project to find out how they connect the power, and who is paying for it to see if it's viable.

Appearance Commission Member List: Adam Lindsay stated that in 2012 there was a change made in the ordinance regarding the terms of service for the Appearance Commission. The ordinance is clear you serve three years staggered terms and you can serve for two consecutive full terms but it also says that you fill a vacancy term first and at that time the ordinance specified that the terms begin on October 31st. Anyone appointed from today forward we are simply going to start their term on the day that they were appointed. So it will be a three year term and then they can serve another three year term.

Adjournment Penelope Ham motioned and BIRTHA Shaw seconded.

The next meeting will be at 1:00pm on June 28, 2016

Submitted by:
Debra Fisher
Town of Southern Pines