

Appearance Commission Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2015

7 o'clock PM

Newton Fire Department

Attendees:

Melvin Caldwell
Collette Touchette
Toni Woods
Sandra Waters

Jim Gargis
Tom Rowe
Bill Sigmon

Absent:

Sheila Iveson
Becky Webb

Guests:

I. Welcome

Collette Touchette called the meeting to order and welcomed all members.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes from Thursday, June 11, 2015 were approved.

III Unfinished Business

A. Financial report

- City Finance could not accept our invoice from Allegra's until the 2015-2016 budget cycle as we have not received our order.
- As a result, the Appearance Commission will have approximately \$1200 from the 2014-2015 year that will revert back to the General Fund.
- Going forward the commission must have all receipts/invoices submitted to city finance by the end of May so they will be accounted for in that budget cycle.
- Safety vests were ordered, at a cost of \$529.61, for members to wear as we work in the community. These vests will remain the property of the Appearance Commission.
- Approximately \$200 additional miscellaneous expenses came through in June.

B. Teen Leadership

- The pictures will be ready next week.
- The students gave Collette Touchette the write-ups however; she is going to go over it to get more information.
- Collette Touchette will put little info plaques next to the pictures.

C. Curb Appeal

- Shelia Iveson, Collette Touchette, and Alex Frick went to notify the Shannonbrook winner; however, the homeowner was in the hospital.
- Collette Touchette asked if anyone has gotten any donations.
- Collette will appoint a committee of people to examine the site and come back with recommendations. This will give us an idea of what we need to acquire.

D. Looking Better Together

- Jim sprayed the weeds at the last site on 21st street.

E. Yard of the Month

- Announced the award to Tony and Genny Gallegos at their 821 E. 23 St. residence.
- The most patriotic yard announcement will be in the newspaper next week
- The appearance commission article was in the city newsletter this week

F. Civic Group Signs

- All signs are down near the Food Lion intersection.
- Sandra Waters will keep the Elks sign until we put them up again. She talked to the city manager about putting signs up on the brick wall rather than on poles.
- Collette will measure the wall to determine the number of signs it will accommodate.
- Melvin Caldwell said The Kiwanis club is ready to order signs for both Newton and Conover.
- The appearance commission recommended putting solar lights in front of the wall once signs are installed.
- The VFW wants to put up a sign.

G. Adopt a Spot

- Prospective sponsors include:
 - ✓ The Catawba Valley League of Women Voters
 - ✓ Catawba County Democratic Party
 - ✓ Newton Velo bicycle group
 - ✓ Blue Moon Café

H. Hwy 321 and O St.

- Sandra reported that Doyle will build up a mound in September. We will then plant flowers

I. Looking Good Update

- Collette Touchette sent letters to Affordable Floors in downtown Newton and Gateway Church in East Newton. Their pictures were also posted on Facebook.
- Walkers Pharmacy has not addressed their trash cans. They need a gate on their enclosure.
- Collette Touchette is working on the dumpsters ordinance suggesting they be enclosed like at city hall.

J. Hwy. 10/16 & Littles Flower Replacements

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- Collette Touchette recommended putting up a flag or several little flags.
- Sandra Waters recommended that the purchasing department BEV purchase the flags.
- Sandra Waters reported that Doyle Wyant and Brad Martin inspected the Hwy10/16 median and determined 8-10 butterfly bushes, all the roses, the Stella Doras and Monkey Grass are still good. The crepe myrtles are also in good condition. It is possible there is a drainage problem because of excess moisture.
- Collette Touchette suggested making copies of the plan to decide what to plant and when in accordance with the state plan. It is recommended Doyle Wyant come to the next meeting to go over the plan.
- Little's Median: The island flowers have filled in more. The Appearance Commission will put in small flags. Tom Rowe volunteered to put in a four foot flag at the median for one week.

K. Thornburg Drive Mowing

- Collette Touchette talked to Dusty Wentz who said it would cost the city too much to do. Still waiting on bids from external contractors to come in for comparison. The city needs a minimum of two bidders with the required equipment. Collette Touchette indicated Dusty Wentz had to clarify with the state exactly what they could and could not do (i.e. Spraying weeds).
- Collette Touchette stated the intersection of Burris Road and Thornburg Dr. has a lot of wrecks. Could it be that the high grass impedes sight?
- Jim is going to touch base with Dusty Wentz about what he might need.

L. Reunion Booth

- Give Always: Order packets of wildflower seeds with pictures on the packets explaining what they are and what they do.
- Jim made a motion to buy seeds. Seconded by Melvin Caldwell. The motion passed.
- Melvin Caldwell made a motion to look into buying bumper stickers. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Melvin Caldwell will contact Eddie next to Callahan's to see about the costs of ordering bumper stickers.
- Collette Touchette has paid for, and reserved the booth. The assigned booth space is in the same corner place as last year.
- The booth will be up on August 20, 2015.
- Collette Touchette recommended giving flags to children at the booth.

M. Patriotic Decorating Contest

- Newsletter will be going out next week.
- Newspaper articles are going out next week.
- Collette Touchette will put entry forms out in the library and city hall.

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N. Other

- Melvin Caldwell reported 359 likes on the Appearance Commission Facebook page with 8 new likes last week.
- Melvin Caldwell recommended changing the appearance commission Facebook page cover photo and changing the profile picture.
- Jim said there was an article in the Newton Observer last week about the 21st street property.

Next Meeting: August 13, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Toni Gaither Woods, Appearance Commission Secretary