

Appearance Commission Minutes

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015

Attendees:

Jim Gargis
Collette Touchette
Alicia Rayfield
Becky Webb

Guests:

Melvin Caldwell
Shelia Iveson
Bill Sigmon

Mayor Anne Stedman
Angela Ramseur
Doyle

Absent: Tom Rowe
Sandra Waters

I. Welcome

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

II. Approval of Minutes of Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015

The minutes were approved as written.

III. Old Business

A. Financial Report

There was no change in the financial report.

B. Streetscape

Mayor Anne Stedman expressed to the commission the importance of attending the planned Streetscape meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 7pm. It is imperative that we give our input, thoughts, and wishes for this plan to be successful. We need to attend the meetings and give input to the Streetscape website. The design is expected to be completed in July, 2015. If it is decided a bond referendum is needed an independent oversight committee will be established. City staff has already started searching for grants.

C. Litter Sweep

Angie Ramseur stated that the main goal of the Litter Sweep program for Newton is to manage the storm water program. The Department of Transportation sets the date but it will be sometime between April 18 and May 2. We will be concentrating on the entrances to Newton. Angie requested that the Appearance Commission help with the administrative tasks and refreshments on the day of the litter sweep and give her suggestions for groups/individuals who can help.

Angie stated that if one sees bags that have been dumped anywhere where they do not belong, they should contact public works.

Collette will request the science department at CVCC help with the litter sweep.

D. 'Lookin Good' Update

Abundant Life Florist Christmas Decorations and the old Claremont Supply building renovation were posted this past month.

E. 'Looking Better Together' Review

The Commission completed their first project at the home of Betty Canipe. Collette requested that everyone start looking for another project. **Sheila will get some information on a lady that lives on N. Ashe Ave. Alicia will get information on the old unpainted historic home near Little's median.** We would like to have our next project on a main thoroughfare.

F. Downtown Window Displays

Both owners gave permission for us to continue using their storefronts. Our next artist has not gotten back to us on exhibiting his art. **Collette will contact KCCB on getting the Recycle Logo artwork for display.**

Due to lack of time, Sheila will present the canvas art competition proposal at the next meeting.

G. Fire Station Landscape Plan Update

Doyle led a discussion on his proposed landscape plan. It was suggested that the trees in the lower lot be changed. **Bill received a copy of the plan. He will review and give Doyle his suggestions.**

H. Adopt-a-Spot

It was suggested that we landscape the remaining large and small medians at the Hwy 10/16 intersection. Doyle presented a landscape plan. The Commission suggested that instead of all the plants we grass the area, move the City of Newton entrance sign to the large median and landscape around the sign. This would also involve building up the area as it slopes down toward the middle.

It was agreed that the small median needs to be torn up and replaced with concrete or asphalt.

The Commission decided to forego the planned remaining landscaping at the Hwy 10/16 median and use the money for landscaping in other areas.

Collette will contact City staff to see if power for lighting could possibly be run to the sign. If not, can we use a solar light?

The fire department has requested that the Appearance Commission manage the landscaping of 2 new medians across from the fire station of S. Brady Ave. The commission agreed that

because these are small medians that at least 2 different annuals be planted.

Doyle requested that the Commission support landscaping the 2 corners at City Hall rather than include it in the Adopt-a-Spot program. The estimated cost is approximately \$400 for both areas. The Commission agreed.

Sandra submitted a proposed sign design for the Adopt-a-Spot. The Commission will review a mock-up of the sign.

I. Employee Appreciation Luncheon Wrap-up

Everyone agreed that all went well. The commission again thanked the Presbyterian Church for letting us use their facilities. There were approximately 30 people in attendance.

J. Business Advisory Booth

The Appearance Commission will set up a booth at this meeting on Feb. 19. It was suggested that we have the Appearance Commission marketing brochure, Adopt-a-Spot brochure and some story boards of our activities. **Collette will put all this together.**

K. Newsletter Article

Collette informed the Commission that the new City PR person, Alec Frisch will be putting out the City Newsletter in March. **She requested that everyone review the Appearance Commission article before it is submitted.**

L. Danner Industrial Park Sign

Collette showed the Commission pictures of the proposed sign at the industrial park. The group questioned if the background will be yellow as shown in the picture and if the lettering at the bottom will be hidden by the guard rail. **Collette will contact Todd Clark and resolve the questions.**

Due to time constraints the remaining agenda items will be postponed until the March meeting. Collette will set up a meeting during the first week of March so we can spend time on the 2015-2016 Action Plan and budget. This plan is due no later than the 2nd week in March.

Next Meeting: March 2, 2015
Recreation Center

Notation: Highlighted sections denote an “Action Item,” requiring action by one or more commission members.

Respectfully Submitted,

Collette Touchette
Chairperson, Appearance Commission
2/24/2015