

Appearance Commission Minutes

Thursday, Sept 11, 2014

Attendees:

Bill Sigmon
Collette Touchette
Tom Rowe

Guest

Melvin Caldwell
Jim Gargis
Sandra Waters

Jerry Hodges

I. Welcome

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

II. Old Business

A. Financial Report

1. Collette shared the budget summary.
2. Unplanned expenses identified were plants for the downtown planters and Reunion booth expenses

B. Reunion Booth Wrap Up

1. Seven email invitations to attend our meeting were sent people who expressed an interest in the Appearance Commission
2. Four emails were sent to people who expressed an interest in the Commission but lived outside of the city of Newton. Two people replied thanking for the acknowledgement.
3. Elements for improvement were identified in the planning and execution process for a booth next year.
4. Tom Rowe stated that the Tree Board would like to join us on the booth and may be able to get a seedling for a door prize. The Commission unanimously approved.
5. Jim Gargis and Tom Rowe requested to use the left over seeds to plant at the entrance to Pinehurst. All agreed.

C. Patriotic Decorating Contest

1. Five home and 6 businesses submitted entries.
2. It was suggested that we hold the contest again next year but limit the actual judging period to 1 day and have an honorable mention category.

D. 'Lookin Good'

1. Collette requested suggestions from the commission members. Three companies were suggested.
2. The most recent postings were Affordable Mini Storage and Catawba County Maintenance Parking Lot.

E. Adopt-a-Spot

1. Collette asked Sandra to investigate some possible plaques to identify the owners of the spots.
2. Literature on the program was delivered to one of the Rotary Clubs.
3. Sheila and Collette planted flowers in 5 pots downtown before Reunion week. 2 pots were moved due neglect.

F. Median Updates

1. The annuals at Little's Median will be replaced once they are spent.
2. We have discovered a problem with concrete that is 2 feet deep and how to remove. Public Utilities will be resolving.
3. Sandra stated that this median should be completed in about 3 weeks.

G. Curb Appeal – Newton Style

1. The Rules and Regulations were reviewed by the town attorney and approved.
2. Collette requested that we do not start this project until next Spring. All agreed.
3. Collette has a list of the major businesses in Newton to approach for help in the form of donations, materials or volunteers.
4. It was suggested that a form be developed to give the businesses. Collette will draft a form.

H. Facebook

Melvin reported 189 likes to date.

I. Hwy 16 Loop

1. It was suggested that Commission members address the issue with County Commission members and solicit any help in our endeavor.

J. Fire Station Site Plan

1. It was suggested that Doyle, Greg, Bill, Jim and Collette meet to discuss the landscape plan. A meeting was planned for 9/29.

K. Marketing Brochure

1. The Commission Agreed to give Sandy a small token of their appreciation for designing our brochure.

L. Tree Board

1. The inappropriate trimming of trees in the city was brought up. The Tree Board has been requested to address this with the city.

New Business

It was requested that Jon Raines be invited to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 13, 2014
Recreation Department – Downstairs

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Collette Touchette
Chairperson, Appearance Commission
10/4/2014