

Appearance Commission Minutes
City of Newton, NC
Meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2013

Attendees:

Lori Wray Sandra Waters
Jim Gargis Jane Martin
Melvin Caldwell Alicia Rayfield

Guest:

Rob Powell Cecilia Chiok
Jeremy Petty
Melinda Herzog

Item I: Call to Order

Chairperson, Lori Wray welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

- The minutes were approved as written.

Item 3: Old Business

A. Streetscapes – planters around town

- Jeremy discussed the downtown planters. Any replacement pots or baskets have to comply with ADA. He has measured the sidewalks around town and any replacements cannot exceed 2.5 feet in size.
- Alicia volunteered to research containers and prices.

B. Wayfinding Sign Committee Report

- Rob Powell reported that the wayfinding signs can only direct to public buildings. The police station and city hall will have signs similar to the wayfinding signs.
- Alicia asked Rob if it would be possible to develop a link for all the committees to report information regarding their projects. A possible “share point” site since we are trying to work together on the same projects. He said he would look into it.

C. Committee work session prioritized.

- Collette had taken the responses she had received from members and prioritized them. The group was asked to review the list for the next meeting.
- Alicia wanted to look at items that would need action before we met again. She volunteered, along with Jan, to look for a Yard of the Month nominee.

D. Adopt-a-Spot

- The committee was given examples of the proposed contracts and asked to review for the next meeting. Also asked to think if we need a list of plants or let the adopter come up with a design and then let us approve.
- Would it be possible to ask the business or group that adopts a spot to purchase the pot/basket that will be replacing the planters once they are removed? Is this a way to fund the replacements for the planters downtown?

- Sandra does not feel we need any contract approved through the city attorney.
- Further discussion is needed on adopting the median at Hwy 10/16. It was suggested to plant with wildflowers but Alicia brought up the point that there will be some work needed to both prepare the spot and maintain it even with wildflowers.

E. Budget

- Sandra will bring the budget to the next meeting
- Collette copied an article from the Hickory paper regarding their Appearance Committee and it's budget.

F. Yard Sale Ordinance

- Melvin will bring the information to the April meeting.

G. New members to replace two members going off in April

- Bill Sigmon has agreed to join our committee.
- The committee still needs one additional member.

H. Update on Eat Smart, Move More walking trail

- This is going before council on Tuesday March 19th for their approval. Funding has been provided to cover the cost of making the signs. Brochures have been made.

I. Newton Business Owners meeting

- This was the first meeting for this group.
- A survey was given to the business owner and Collette obtained the results and identified the items that the Appearance Committee should be addressing.
- The committee should be ready to discuss these findings and any action needed at the next meeting.

J. Holshouser Report

- The committee was given a copy of the full report.
- Collette had taken the time to go through the report and highlight all references to the Appearance Committee.

K. Good Samaritan Group

- Collette has accomplished this goal. She contacted Gary Towery with Newton-Conover High School who is their volunteer coordinator. He has agreed to work with the Newton Code Enforcement Officer.
- There are also two Boy Scout troops that can assist

New Business:

A. Apartment Complex Landscape Barriers

- Mayor Stedman has brought this to Collette's attention and asked that the Appearance Committee look into this matter.
- The committee will need to contact Alex Fulbright with planning to identify what the ordinance is regarding the barriers.

Respectfully Submitted:
Lori Wray
Appearance Commission

Next Meeting Thursday, April 11, 2013