

**APPEARANCE**  
**COMMISSION MEETING**

The Newton appearance Commission met on **Thursday, April 12 at 7:00pm** at Zander's Coffee House.

**Present:**

Lori Wray

Melvin Caldwell

Alicia Rayfield

Jan Freeman

Collette Touchette

Parks and Recreation Director Sandra Waters

**Guest:**

Jim Gargis

**I. Welcome**

The meeting was called to order and everyone was welcomed.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Correction of Vice Chairman's name from Felicia to Alicia. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**III. Old Business**

**A.** City-wide Clean-up –April 21<sup>st</sup>. Registration will be held at the Newton Recreation Center beginning at 8:30. Committee was asked to help with registration if possible. Boundaries of city-wide clean up were discussed. The committee was also informed that DOT has a state-wide clean-up planned. The possibility of the committee adopting a portion of a city road was also discussed.

**B.** Arbor Day – April 21<sup>st</sup>. The event will take place at 10:00 am at the First United Methodist Church. A tree will be planted to mark the event. The song by Evie Tornquist will be played and the Mayor will read the proclamation.

**C.** Living Tree Memorial – Three past members of the Appearance Commission will be honored with a plaque on a tree at Southside Cemetery in thanks for all their service. The past members are Mary Yoder, Doris White and Rita Williams.

**D.** Yard of the Month – Five yards were reviewed and considered for Yard of the Month. After much consideration and review of photos, it was decided that Vera Arndt would be the recipient for the month of May. Alicia and Jan will make arrangements for publicity and to present Mrs. Arndt with the sign and gift card.

- E. 2012-2013 Budget – Reviewed
  - F. Heritage Trail – Sandra reported on the progress with the tree identification and asked for input from the group regarding what type of brochures should be available at the trail heads.
- IV. Eat Smart Move More – Lori and Sandra reported on the progress with the plans to develop a 1, 2 and 3 mile walking trail in the downtown area of Newton. Suggested routes were given. The committee recommended contacting local historians and citizens regarding points of interest in the downtown area and developing the route around those points. The committee was asked to try and gather any information possible regarding these points of interest by the next meeting.
- V. **New Business**
- A. New Members – The commission is in need of two new members to replace the recent three members that had served their terms. Jim Gargis volunteered to fill one of those slots. His name will be brought before the Board of Alderman at their next meeting for approval.
  - B. Newton website – Collette brought it to the commission’s attention that our minutes and agendas should be posted on the city’s website. Lori volunteered to contact Gary Herman regarding the posting of our agendas, minutes and list of members.
  - C. Members list – A list of current members was handed out to get all contact information for each member. It was decided that e-mail notification of meetings would take place in the future.
  - D. Newspaper article – Collette brought a newspaper article to the attention of the commission regarding an area of Newton that is in need of clean up. No action was decided, however, it was asked that the new city planner be asked to our next meeting regarding her future vision of the City of Newton.
- VI. **Adjournment**
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jan Freeman  
Lori Wray