

Appearance Commission Meeting

August 4, 2014

Minutes

Members Present: Lee Batson, Nora Cambier, Sandy Foutch, and Linda Tracy

Members Absent: Ben Carroll and Kirby Guinn

Staff Present: Patrick Reidy, Planner

Guests: Commissioner Ginna Gray, Commissioner Sam Laughery, and Peggy Lee Mead

1. Meeting Called to Order & Welcome

Patrick Reidy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established per the bylaws.

2. Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda

Lee Batson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Linda Tracy. The vote was unanimous.

3. Approval of Minutes

No minutes needed to be approved.

4. Public Comments:

Staff liaison member Patrick Reidy noted that Commissioner Laughery asked to make public comments. He thanked the members for their services and stated that his wife, Peggy Lee Mead, was a professional muralist. He said that she has offered her services to paint a mural for the Appearance Commission, free of charge.

He also stated that he would like to solicit the member's opinion on where the bike racks and tables should be located in downtown.

5. Discussion, Consideration, and Action on the Following Items:

A. Wendell Wish List

Patrick Reidy asked that members give their ideas for improvements they would like to see take place in Wendell. He has a large pad of paper that was used to write down the ideas. Once all of the ideas were given, he passed out colored dots to help rank the priorities. Each member added dots to areas that they felt were their top four choices for Wendell.

The following list is ranked in order of most important to least important according to the Appearance Commission:

1. Water Park/Splash Pad
2. Dog Park
3. Sidewalks along Wendell Boulevard from IGA to Elementary School
4. Tree Screening along Lake Glad Road in front of Public Works
5. Skateboard Park
6. Gazebo at the front of the park
7. Shuffleboard
8. Bench at the front of the park
9. Garbage can/doggie bags at the front of the park
10. Volleyball courts
11. Horseshoe pits
12. Cornhole sets
13. Recycle bin at the front of the park
14. Small Botanical Garden
15. Doggie bag post in front of the downtown dog groomer
16. More frequent trash pickup in the downtown
17. Ground cover along trench on Second Street east of the Police Station
18. Tables with checkerboard tops

Kirby Guinn and Ben Carroll were e-mailed after the meeting to give their input at the request of the other members, but no response was received.

Staff will forward the list on to Teresa Piner for her to assess and try to make improvements if funds become available.

B. Mural Theme Discussion

Mr. Reidy asked the members to work on selecting a theme for the first mural which will be located at 100 W. Third Street. It was suggested to either decide on one theme or even two themes to give a potential mural artist more creative flexibility.

The building owner informed staff that she would not consent to a tobacco themed mural for personal reasons. She wouldn't have a problem with one on other buildings in downtown, but she would not want it on her building.

Based on a survey that was conducted in 2013, the top choice are as follows in order of most popular: Historic Wendell; Tobacco/Farming; Trains; Future Wendell; Local Events/Gatherings; Old/Retro Advertisements; Artsy; Sports; and Specific People.

Members were given ballots to write their top three themes. First place received three votes, second place received two votes, and third place received one vote. Members ask that staff reach out to members who were absent so that they could vote, but no response was received.

Based on the four ballots that were received, the top mural scenes are as follows:

1. Nature Scene with a train – 7 votes
2. Train Scene – 6 votes
3. Collage of Wendell's Past – 5 votes

4. Wendell Events – 2 votes
4. Aerial View of Main Street & Third Street – 2 votes

The top themes will be discussed at the September meeting along with a plan for moving forward.

C. Adopt-A-Highway Follow Up Discussion

October 11, 2014 was selected as the first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup. The cleanup will begin at 8am.

Linda Tracy stated that she will work to have a youth group from Hephzibah Baptist Church assist in the cleanup. She will also reach out to Boy Scout leaders in the area about helping with future cleanups.

D. Christmas Decorating Contest

Patrick Reidy gave an overview of a possible Christmas decorating contest. He states that members would need to decide on the logistics of the contest.

It was decided that there would be three themes for the residential portion of the contest. They will be: Most Original, Most Over the Top, and Most Traditional. The winner of each category will receive a Wendell gift certificate that can be redeemed at most businesses in Wendell and a yard sign declaring them as the winner of their category. Staff will work with the Chamber of Commerce to help create a gift certificate.

The commercial portion of the contest will have a best storefront theme. The winner will receive a pizza party for their employees.

The criteria selected for the judging will be based on the theme, originality, and curb appeal, which will include neatness of the lights and/or displays.

It was suggested that anyone who wants to enter the contest would submit a form to staff so that the Appearance Commission would know to go by their house on the night of judging in early December.

The Appearance Commission will hand out flyers at the Harvest Festival and staff will ask the Eastern Wake News to write an article about it.

E. Harvest Festival Booth

Patrick Reidy asked if the members would like to have a permanent banner created to use for any events, including the Harvest Festival booth. By a unanimous vote, they directed staff to create a banner.

The members asked staff to check with the Chamber of Commerce to see if they would be allowed to sell water. They also asked staff to create a solicitation letter that could be used to create a “Wendell” basket that would be raffled off from donations.

Other ideas included selling dog treats, providing water for dogs, making a “money raised meter” so show where the progress of mural funding, ask for a news article to be written, create some type of competition for children to win toys using the items left over from last year’s booth, having a giant Jenga game for kids to play, and have a Wheel of Fortune game to win prizes.

F. Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Affiliate Discussion

Patrick Reidy presented an idea of creating a Wendell Keep America Beautiful (KAB) Affiliate program. Mr. Reidy informed the members on the purpose of KAB and discussed the benefits of receiving grant money for beautification and recycling programs.

Mr. Reidy also outlined the general requirements to create a KAB affiliate. Members asked that he find out the time requirements necessary for training and if any traveling was involved. Many members expressed interested and suggested that if the town were to move forward, it should be a collection of individuals who come from different backgrounds and not just using Appearance Commission members to serve on the KAB board.

Mr. Reidy stated he would set up a time for the North Carolina KAB Director to attend a Board of Commissioners’ meeting and let Appearance Commission members know of the meeting date.

6. Chairwoman and Board Members’ Comments

No comments were made.

7. Adjourn

Lee Batson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Linda Tracy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.