

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES

May 4, 2011
Greenville, NC

The Community Appearance Commission met on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the third floor conference room #337 of City Hall located at 200 West Fifth Street.

Community Appearance Commission Members Present:

Mark Abboud Troy Jensen
Myron Caspar Scott Johnson
Brenda Diggs Perry Kachroo
Valerie Guess Joanne Robertson

Community Appearance Commission Members Absent:

Dana Coles Albi McLawhorn Carol Phillips

Staff Present: A J Basile, Code Enforcement Officer; Sandy Gale Edmundson, Secretary; Larry Hopkins, Code Enforcement Officer; and Niki Jones, Planner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commission members pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MAY 4, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Troy Jensen and seconded by Mr. Myron Caspar to approve the May 4, 2011 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: APRIL 6, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Myron Caspar and seconded by Ms. Brenda Diggs to approve the April 6, 2011 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

May Community Appearance Awards Voting and Nominations

The Commission voted for First Street Place apartments.

The Commission nominated the renovated shopping section (chicken place) on Dickinson Avenue.

Code Enforcement Update: A J Basile and Larry Hopkins

Mr. Jones: This will be a question and answer session.

Mr. Jensen: The Commission had asked that statistics from Code Enforcement be presented at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Jones: In June, I will have the Code Enforcement Division bring the total breakdown for Commission members.

Ms. Diggs: How many Code Enforcement officers are there?

Mr. Basile: Presently, there are six officers with a seventh officer being hired with the new budget. Each officer is assigned a specific area of the City.

Ms. Diggs: Do citizens call the officer assigned to the specific area?

Mr. Basile: No just call 329-4110. Code Enforcement's map almost matches police map, so we can work with police patrols.

Mr. Abboud praised Mr. Basile for his work.

Mr. Basile: Each area has its own sets of problems. There are more minimum housing cases with tenants and landlords in heavily rundown areas and these areas are extremely understaffed.

Ms. Diggs: What area does Mr. Hopkins have?

Mr. Hopkins: I have Evans Street up to the Tar River Neighborhood Association.

Ms. Diggs: Who has the Firetower Road area?

Mr. Hopkins: I am one of the officers working in that area.

Mr. Abboud: Who is responsible for trash in the right-of-way?

Mr. Jones: Public Works is responsible. They are responsible for mowing, so the trash should be picked up. Firetower is a state maintained road.

Mr. Caspar: Do you know how the bar area gets cleaned up?

Mr. Jones: Public Works does it.

Mr. Caspar: Public Works does not clean up the area where the kids walk and drop trash on their way home.

Mr. Basile: If I see the trash is in the right-of-way, I call Public Works to come and clean up.

Mr. Caspar: The area looks better.

Mr. Abboud: Try to address issues within neighborhood and then go to Code Enforcement.

Mr. Kachroo: Increasing awareness in the diplomatic way.

Ms. Diggs: Public Service Announcements (PSAs) should be done to educate citizens. Positive PSAs could be done for litter.

Mr. Jones: I will ask Code Enforcement to bring back before the Commission maps of officers' areas and statistical reports.

Neighborhood Improvement Grant (NIG) Discussion

Mr. Jones: Neighborhood Improvement Grants will be brought before the Commission in June. May 18th is the deadline for grants. I am writing up the guidelines for the grant money. The subcommittee of the NIG will work guidelines out. I have two applications, and I think there will be two more.

Ms. Diggs: I am trying to find out if I can apply for second grant.

Mr. Caspar suggested that the guidelines for the grant be rushed.

Mr. Johnson: Money needs to be spent prior to more be awarded.

Mr. Abboud: The Commission needs a list of grants as to whether work has been done.

Mr. Jensen: Consecutive awards can be given but money must be spent.

Ms. Robertson: Can City Attorney help with the guidelines?

Mr. Jones: I have written guidelines for similar grants.

Mr. Kachroo: Ms. Diggs grant was in the past. How much time has to pass before money spent?

Mr. Johnson: The timeframe should be six months.

Mr. Jones: I will have guidelines ready before the June Commission meeting.

UPDATES BY STAFF

Biennial Awards

Mr. Jones: The Trophy Case will make the 8 x 10 plaques for the Biennial Award recipients.

Adopt-a-Street

Mr. Jones: Ms. Jennifer Mills of Public Works said that Mark Abboud's neighborhood can take over the adoption of the streets.

Kristen Drive

The Commission decided to pick up litter on Kristen Drive on Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. There were no updates by Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Ms. Valerie Guess and seconded by Ms. Brenda Diggs to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Niki Jones
Planner