



Mooresville Beautification Committee

February 25, 2016 Minutes

Members Present:

Barbara Pfeffer, Chairman
Kelly Anderson
Mark Fowler
Violet Knox
Lauren Moore-Fischer
Ed Price
Kathleen Rabideau
Tony Walters
William Washburn II

Also Present:

Commissioner Thurman Houston
Maureen Gable, Planner, Town Staff
John McLaughlin, Code Enforcement Officer

Absent: Bob Amon, Dan Payne, Ann Payne, Janis Roelker,

1. Welcome: Ms. Pfeffer welcomed the Committee, Commissioner Houston, and John McLaughlin, Code Enforcement Officer for the Town.

2. Call meeting to order: Ms. Pfeffer called the meeting to order at 5:40, a quorum was determined, and Ms. Gable recorded the minutes.

3. Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Fischer, seconded by Ms. Knox, to approve the November 12, 2015 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Budget: Ms. Gable provided an up to date spreadsheet of the Committee's budget. Ms. Pfeffer stated that there is \$4,443.12 remaining in the Beautification Committee budget.

5. Buildings and Grounds: There was no update from Mr. Bennett Brown. The location for the tree to honor Commissioner Herring was discussed. Mr. Bennett Brown had suggested a location near the back parking lot of Town Hall (in an email). Ms. Pfeffer said that she would prefer a location in front of Town Hall on the opposite side of the sidewalk from an existing tree. The committee discussed the location. Ms. Pfeffer said that she would discuss the Committee's location preferences with Mr. Bennett Brown. The Committee had previously decided to plant a Redbud tree in Commissioner Herring's honor.

6. Yard of Distinction: Ms. Pfeffer suggested that they wait until next month for a nomination when things begin to bloom. The Committee agreed. She stated that the Committee likes to give the award to home owners that have done the work themselves rather than to properties that are maintained by a professional grounds keeper.

7. Beautification Award: Ms. Pfeffer nominated Nelson Royal's for the Beautification Award. The Committee discussed the nomination and agreed. She also suggested Eastside Baptist



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Church on Linwood Road for the following month. Ms. Pfeffer agreed she would provide photos of the property to the Committee.

Ms. Anderson asked if everyone had seen the pictures of the new signs that she had emailed. Most of the Committee stated that they had seen them and that they were very nice. Ms. Anderson stated that the new signs are very sturdy and should last a long time. Ms. Gable stated that the signs would be stored in the Development Services Department. Pick up of the signs prior to the next month's award was discussed. The Committee decided that whoever presented the award would be responsible for retrieving it. That person would then return it to Ms. Gable at Town Hall for storage until the next award is to be presented.

8. Community Eyesores: Code Enforcement Officer, John McLaughlin, introduced himself to the Committee. Mr. McLaughlin stated that he is a retired police sergeant with the New York City PD with 20 years of service. He stated that with most code violations, he always tries to achieve voluntary compliance. He also noted that violations generally take time to correct and that he likes to work directly with the people to gain compliance. Mr. McLaughlin stated that code enforcement does not take care of matters outside of the Town limits.

Mr. McLaughlin said that he does a variety of tasks in his position. He described a specific example of an incident that involved the demolition of a business due to neglect. He said that he had to work with the Town's attorney to be certain that all the necessary steps were followed in the appropriate time frame per state statutes. He stated that the Town gave the owners plenty of time to come into compliance and bring the building up to code prior to enforcement action. This case also went before the Town Board. The Town Board approved the demolition.

Mr. McLaughlin also described two incidents that involved neglected homes. He said that he often deals with tall grass, debris, and other trash on properties. He said that in his opinion it is always best to give people time to comply. He also noted that in certain cases he has called social services to provide assistance to residents.

Mr. Fowler reported an abandoned and/or neglected home on Rocky River Road. Mr. McLaughlin said that it was most likely out of the Town's limits.

Commissioner Houston stated that the Town is also working with Habitat for Humanity to provide critical repairs to those in need. He said that there needs to be on-going communication among the Town's various committees and employees so that our citizens get the help they need.

Ms. Anderson asked if Code Enforcement deals with the inside and outside of properties. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the department mostly deals with outside issues. She also asked about the rules surrounding political and advertising signs. She noted that they seem to be all over



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the place and at times out of date. Mr. McLaughlin said that he does deal with the sign issues; however, many are on private property.

When asked about home inspections that relate to safety issues, Mr. McLaughlin said that he can obtain permission from the renter to perform a home inspection (the renter must sign for his permission.) He said that he tries to take a Fire Marshal, general contractor, or a police officer with him on these calls.

Commissioner Houston noted that the Town is strengthening their zoning for housing. He said that if a safety problem is reported and verified, it must be corrected before the homeowner may again re-rent the property.

9. Old Business:

A) Cart and Supply Storage: Ms. Gable said that the Buildings and Grounds Department reassembled the Rubbermaid storage shed and placed it in the dumpster paddock as a temporary storage solution. She stated that the Town Manager has given permission for the Beautification Committee members to have a vendor code to get in the back gate behind Town Hall. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the temporary storage behind Town Hall in the dumpster paddock will not work because it is too far from the planter locations downtown. It was agreed that the Committee and Building and Grounds Department will continue to look for a better permanent solution. Ms. Pfeffer also said that one or both of the carts are currently broken. She is researching the issue with the manufacturer and working with James Donaldson with Building and Grounds. She noted that James has been extremely helpful and offered to try to repair the carts himself.

Ms. Fischer said that her agency (Inspirations for Aspirations (IFA)) could offer storage for one of the watering carts, 2-3 shovels, and the aprons. She said that she would put the cart and supplies in her car with her volunteers from the agency and drive them to Main and Broad Streets to work on the planters. It was agreed that one cart would be temporarily stored at IFA and the other cart would remain behind the Town Hall.

The committee discussed:

1. Planting at different times instead of all the spring planting on one day.
2. Getting more volunteers.
3. Various locations for storage of the carts, soil, tools, wagon and other supplies in the downtown area and the problem of night and weekend access. Commissioner Houston said that he knows what the Committee needs and that he would work on a permanent solution.



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- B) Murals: Mr. Fowler met with Ms. Hornaday about re-furbishing the mural on her building on Broad Street. He said that she had previously been approached by Coca-Cola about the mural. But that nothing ever came of it. He stated that the mural in Hendersonville was done through the Charlotte Division of Coca-Cola Bottling. He also said that he would pursue getting on Coca-Cola's official list for them to refurbish this mural in Mooresville.
- C) Ms. Fischer stated that Commissioner Herring served as liaison between the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Beautification Committee (BC). She said that a Beautification Committee member should attend the HPC meetings. Ms. Pfeffer also suggested that a member should go to other meetings for the various Town boards and committees. Ms. Anderson said that the Committee should look at all the other committees and determine which may have relevance to the Beautification Committee and who from the Committee should attend those meetings. It was agreed that the Committee would revisit this issue next month.
- D) Spring Plantings: Ms. Pfeffer spoke with Amanda Meadows from Garden Shed and More on Hwy 150 about a proposal for planting the new planters. She stated that she is very knowledgeable about plants and container plantings. The proposals were discussed. Ms. Fischer asked how much is usually spent on spring plantings (flowers and supplies). She asked if the committee had enough funds to do this. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the BC usually spends approximately \$2,000 annually on the spring plantings. Ms. Fischer suggested that the committee get several quotes for large projects the next time. Ms. Pfeffer said that she would contact James Donaldson about taking the large, dead plants out of the other downtown planters.

Ms. Pfeffer showed pictures of the plants that Ms. Meadows gave as suitable options for the planters. Ms. Fischer asked about the cost. Ms. Pfeffer stated that it would cost \$600 for plant food, potting mix and labor on 12 planters. The 12 Gold Fern Spray Chamaecyparis cost \$1800 (\$150 each). The total is \$2,400.

ACTION: Mr. Fowler made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walters, to purchase the 12 Gold Fern Spray Chamaecyparis with plant food, potting mix and labor from the Garden Shed and More for \$2,400. The motion passed unanimously.

The committee discussed and agreed to limit the spring planting budget (flowers) to \$1,500 this year.

- E) Planting dates and times: The committee discussed removing the existing pansies and other seasonal or dead plantings before new plantings would be put in. Mr. Walters stated that more soil is need in a number of planters. Ms. Fischer asked if the old



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pansies could be saved and replanted elsewhere by the Inspiration for Aspiration team. It was agreed that would be fine although Ms. Anderson suggested that she would need to get permission from the business or landowner before replanting.

- F) Bernice at the Tea Shop asked if she could take care of the planter outside of her business herself. Ms. Pfeffer stated that the planters need to be uniform. Ms. Anderson suggested that we advise Bernice that she can care for it after it is planted.

Two planting dates were set:

Monday, March 28, meeting at the Depot at 9:00 a.m.

Monday, April 4, meeting at the Depot at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Anderson stated that she would send email reminders.

Ms. Pfeffer stated that the plants will need to be watered after planting.

Ms. Fischer said that late afternoon is a good time for her volunteers to come and help.

- G) Tree Planting for Commissioner Herring: The committee discussed it and decided it would be better to wait until the fall to plant the tree. Commissioner Houston stated that the Beautification Committee needs to get estimates for purchases. He said that the Town purchases lots of trees and that we could get a good price. Mr. Fowler said that the tree they want for Commissioner Herring is an Eastern Redbud. Commissioner Houston stated that the placement of the tree will be the decision of the Town, the Town Manager, and Buildings and Grounds Manager.

10. New Business:

A) Watering Truck repairs: Mr. Fowler said that it may be a battery problem. He said that a battery costs approximately \$80. He said that he would research best options if it is determined that the battery needs to be replaced.

B) Bench Dedication for Commissioner Herring. The date for the dedication will be decided by the Town Manager or Commissioners in cooperation with the Herring family.

Action: Ms. Pfeffer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rabideau, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting closed at 7:27 p.m.