

SOUTHERN PINES APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 26, 2021
VIA ZOOM

Board Members Present: Birtha Shaw, Melissa Hall, Paula Parke, Susan Suggs, Katherine Schirmer, Kate Shinkwin, Gigi Walter and Teresa Lenahan
(via zoom)

Staff Present: Reagon Parsons, Cory Albers, Graham Purcell, Jeff Grey, and Debra Fisher (via zoom)

Chairperson Birtha Shaw called the meeting to order.

Committee Reports:

Landscape / Trees / Planters: Teresa Lenahan reported that the evergreens, heuchera and pansies are holding up to the chilly temperature. This spring and summer we are planning pots full of bright yellows and shades of pink to bring rays of sunshine to the street corners on Broad Street, the Welcome Center, the front of the Finance and Planning building and the six (6) hanging baskets at the train station. Plans are in the works for the Moore County Master Gardener Volunteers to help plant the street pots this year. Future plans include the MCMGV to put together their own pot designs for the spring and summer pots each year.

Tree Replacement Project: Katherine Schirmer reported that the downtown street tree replacement project that began in 2018 is near completion. Pennsylvania Ave. between Broad and Bennett street is the last block to be done and work on that block is scheduled to begin on February 10th. The Town has received a proposal to remove tree stumps, install trees, make incidental sidewalk repair, tree well and brick repairs. Annual Legacy Landmark funding available to the Appearance Commission for tree projects. The Tree Committee recommends that the Appearance Commission recommend to the Town Council to add additional funds to the Annual Legacy Landmark funding for the Appearance Commission tree projects. Reagon Parsons stated that he will inform Council of the additional funds of \$10,000 needed to complete the W. Pennsylvania project “turn key”. Katherine Schirmer stated that the downtown tree replacements and plantings on the 200 block of S.W. Broad St. had to replace the young trees that never did well after breaking dormancy in 2020 with six (6) lacebark elm and three (3) nuttall oak trees. On the 100 block of N.W. Broad Street a scarlet oak was replaced and one (1) old red maple tree that was planted back in the 1980’s with a lacebark elm tree. The Jefferson Inn planted a Japanese maple in the landscape bed. Katherine Schirmer reported that a tree replacement permit was requested on S. Stephens St. The tree committee reviewed the request in November 2020 and recommended removal of the sycamore tree and be replaced with a smaller sidewalk tree. The sycamore tree will be removed and a list of more appropriate trees has been prepared for the property owner to review.

Adopt-A-Street: Birtha Shaw reported that she is working to update the Adopt-A-Street list.

Building and Property: Birtha Shaw reported that at present there is little activity going on for cleanup and property clearings. The dilapidated house located on N. Hale St. is due to be completely torn down within the next couple of months per Lisa Webb. There is a renovation being done on W. Wisconsin Ave. and the workers stated that they will clean up after completion. Birtha stated that she spoke with the owner of a home on W Massachusetts Ave regarding cleaning and clearing debris at the home.

Camila Way Updates: Kate Shinkwin reported that Camila Way looks great. Kate Shinkwin stated that they should reach out to the Southern Pines Business Association to have the businesses clean up the backside of their business. Reagon Parsons stated that he will find a good contact person for the businesses.

Old Business:

Southern Pines Mural Project Updates: Kate Shinkwin reported that she has ten (10) potential businesses to place a mural the goal is five (5). Teresa Lenahan commented that it would be nice if some of the business's would be outside of the historical parts of Town to draw some of the foot traffic to other areas in town. Gigi Walter's stated that the murals should have Southern Pines added so that when taking photos, it will show the location.

Tree City Application Updates: Jeff Grey stated that the application for tree city has been sent in and approved.

Badges: Cory Albers stated at the last Appearance Commission meeting that he is having new badges made for the Appearance Commission members and would need them to send in a picture. Birtha Shaw asked if everyone had submitted their photo to Cory Albers. Cory Albers stated that he has received photos from everyone expect for two (2) members. The members stated they would send him a picture as soon as possible.

New Business:

Meeting Dates for upcoming year (2021): Birtha Shaw stated that with COVID 19 not sure if they will be meeting in the Boyd room, the Fire Dept., or have a ZOOM meeting. Reagon Parson stated that when the Appearance Commission has a Zoom meeting they need to notify the public a week in advance so anyone that would be interested to join can sign up.

Arbor Day Updates: Jeff Grey stated that for the upcoming Arbor Day celebration the town does not have to have an event all that is needed is to have a picture and the proclamation. Kate Shinkwin stated that it would be nice if they had a poster contest for school children. Gigi Walters stated that the information for Arbor Day and the poster contest could be given to the Pilot. Katherine Schirmer stated that she would like to see more publications of the book Significant Trees in Southern Pines that was prepared and published by the Southern Pines Appearance Commission. Reagon Parson's stated that they will need to reach out to publishers to find out the cost for making the books.

Information for the Pollinator Garden Proposal: Katherine Schirmer commented that she has a proposal for a pollinator garden in Southern Pines from the Moore County Agricultural Extension agent, Savannah Laur. Katherine Schirmer stated that the garden will need approximately 400 ft and have access to water. Parking will be needed for tours.

New Committee Appointments Chair and Vice Chair; Subcommittee Appointments:

Birtha Shaw stated that her term was over and an new Appearance Commission will need To be appointed. Birth Shaw asked if anyone would like to nominate one of the Appearance Commission members to be the chair. Birtha Shaw stated that she would like to nominate Katherine Schirmer for the chair. Katherine Schirmer stated she would like to nominate Teresa Lenahan. A vote was taken and the committee voted unanimously to appointment Teresa Lenahan as chair for the Town of Southern Pines Appearance Commission. Birtha Shaw stated that because Teresa Lenahan was the vice chair for the Appearance Commission a vote was needed to appoint a new vise chair for the Appearance Commission the Appearance Commission voted unanimously to appoint Katherine Schirmer as the Appearance Commission vice chair. Birtha Shaw stated that the committee needed to review the different committee's and decide what members are the committee chairs.

With no further items to discuss, Birtha Shaw made a motion for adjournment Seconded by Paula Parke. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Appearance Commission will be March 23, 2021

Submitted by:
Debra Fisher
Town of Southern Pines