

SOUTHERN PINES APPEARANCE COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
July 28, 2020

Board Members Present: Birtha Shaw, Stefanie Summers, Melissa Hall, Kate Shinkwin, Paula Parke, Susan Suggs, Teresa Lenahan and Katherine Schirmer (via phone)

Staff Present: Chris Kennedy, Cory Albers, Suzy Russell, Jeff Grey, Reagan Parsons, and Debra Fisher

Guests Present: Gigi Walter

Birtha Shaw asked for any edits or comments to the proposed minutes for the June 23, 2020 Southern Pines Appearance Commission meeting and entertained a motion for approval. Melissa Hall made a motion, second by Paula Parke to approve the minutes from June 23, 2020 as submitted. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Landscape / Trees / Planters: Birtha Shaw stated that Teresa Lenahan and Katherine Schirmer were not present but they have submitted their report for the planters and trees and asked if anyone had any questions to forward to them. No one had any questions for the trees and planters. In Teresa Lenahan's report, she reported the downtown street side flowerpots are handling the heat fairly well. The hanging baskets at the Train Station/Welcome Center have not fared as well and the trailing Vinca has been trimmed back in hopes of a possible re-bloom later. The Mandeville vines are being trained to hang down and vine around the lampposts. There was an incident with the flowerpot in front of Honeycutt Jewelers a couple weeks ago. The pot was overturned but fortunately, the pot was not damaged. Thanks to Graham Purcell and his crew for reviving the plantings. In Fall 2020, we are planning to finish the tree planting on the 100 block of West Pennsylvania and the 200 block of S.E. Broad Street. The tree subcommittee of the Board will discuss which tree species are most appropriate and will forward this information at a later date. Earlier this year crape myrtle trees were planted in the Brucewood median and these trees have flourished with the attention of the Town's horticulture crew. The magnolia trees in front of the Finance and Planning building have also been limbed up.

Adopt-A-Street: Birtha Shaw reported that she had no updates.

Building and Property: Birtha Shaw reported that an un-kept property with old cars previously submitted to the Town of Southern Pines Code Enforcement Officer has removed the old cars but the yard is still overgrown weeds and small trees; the owner will be sent a second notice to remedy the un-kept yard. Birtha Shaw stated that she has submitted other properties in need of attention to the Code Enforcement Officer. Overall, most properties are doing a good job of maintaining the areas in public view.

Camelia Way Updates: Kate Shinkwin and Susan Suggs described a few ideas for the Camelia Way area including revised landscaping, benches, new trashcans and the like. Chris Kennedy stated that the Town is already underway in its work to reconstruct the parking lot, the demolition and reconstruction of the dumpster corral, which will be expanded to a (4) four bay dumpster corral, the removal of a declining tree behind the corral, the powder-coating of the existing parking lot lighting fixtures, the collection of old bricks to be repurposed elsewhere in downtown, the placement of a decorative street sign for Camelia Way and the placement of new benches and trashcans that Kate Shinkwin and Susan Suggs mentioned.

Old Business:

Sprucing Up Southern Pines: Chris Kennedy presented two (2) new applications and photos for the Sprucing Up Southern Pines awards, the Boyd House (Weymouth Center for the Arts and Humanities) and a residence at 235 North Page Street. Each member of the Board filled out a scoring card to be used as part of the selection process. The Appearance Commission voted unanimously to approve both the Boyd House and 235 North Page Street as a recipient for the 2020 Sprucing Up Southern Pines awards.

New Business:

Chris Kennedy reported that he has been named the Town Manager of Pittsboro and his last day with the Town of Southern Pines will be Friday, August 7. Chris Kennedy stated that while he will no longer be with the Town of Southern Pines, he will still be available for any questions or concerns should they arise. Chris Kennedy also stated the Southern Pines Garden Club has donated \$2,000 for Arbor Day trees and he thanked them for their generous donation. Chris Kennedy reminded the group that it is time to start thinking about the plant materials for the fall flowerpots in downtown and that the Board should work with Jack Taylor and Jeff Grey along with the garden clubs and the master gardeners towards the design and implementation. Chris Kennedy commented that Assistant Public Work Director Cory Albers will be the interim liaison with the Board and he will be helping with the number of Appearance Committee projects for the foreseeable future including Arbor Day and Christmas. Chris Kennedy also mentioned that the Town Council was approached with ideas around murals and that the Appearance Commission may support those conversations in the future in some form of a steering committee.

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

The next meeting of the Appearance Commission will be September 22, 2020.

Submitted by:
Debra Fisher
Town of Southern Pines