

MINUTES
Special Called Meeting of the
Aberdeen Appearance & Beautification Commission

September 9, 2014
Tuesday, 12:00 p.m.

Robert N. Page Municipal Building
Aberdeen, North Carolina

The Aberdeen Appearance & Beautification Commission met on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. for their Regular Meeting. Present were Chairperson Elease Goodwin, Eldiweiss Lockey, Janet Peele, Dene Moon, guest Stephen Greer, Planner Jae Kim, and Planning Director Pam Graham.

1. Pam introduced Stephen Greer to those members who did not know him. Stephen has been approached and has expressed interest in serving as a member of the ABC and offered to sit in on today's meeting.
2. Pam began a presentation that illustrated where existing benches and trash cans are located in the downtown area and their condition. Jae has taken an inventory and there are 8 green/brown benches, 8 trash cans, and 3 older benches that are in poor condition but have plaques indicating that they were donated. There are 6 new benches and trash cans that have been ordered and are being stored at the Public Works facility that are designed to coordinate with other site furnishings such as the planters and the recently installed pole signs from the Master Sign Plan. Pam advised that locations for these new amenities need to be determined as soon as possible and the group should also make a decision on what should become of the older items because they are of such a different design. Options include donating to the Parks & Rec Department or putting them in the "Y" area which we expect to be used for more activities moving forward. Decisions were as follows:
 - a. New benches and trash cans should be located near all eating establishments and other strategic locations such as Page Church to replace the one that is there and possibly on Poplar Street where people walk to town.
 - b. The old benches should be donated to Parks & Rec to provide seating near playground areas in the town's parks, or in other locations determined by the new director.
3. Pam also showed photos of two important locations near the corner of Main and Poplar Streets that have been suggested for replanting. The spaces could support nice street trees and there are no power lines to interfere as the lines were buried in that area as part of a Main Street Program project. Stephen Greer recommended the Chinese Pistache tree and Pam located photographs of that species to show to the group. There was general support for that choice.
4. Elease mentioned that the area of Main Street between US 1 and Poplar Street should be improved. There is a fence that was put up to screen the vehicles at the shop there

but the fence either needs to come down or be painted. Janet asked if the irrigation was working there. Pam offered to follow up. This area was discussed prior to the US Open but there was little time to do more than minimal planting.

5. Elease also mentioned that the fence at the Depot is looking bad. The stain is fading and there are new replacement boards that were never stained. She suggested they be painted green.
6. Pam stated that staff would move ahead with fall plantings of the downtown planters in late September/early October.
7. Discussion of contracted landscape maintenance. The commission had requested that this be considered and Pam has spoken with one contractor she is familiar with that is a Master Gardener and has a degree in Landscape Architecture. He has given her a rough idea of how they could schedule periodic maintenance and what the expected costs might be. She suggested that the group discuss this again at the next meeting and she will bring a spreadsheet of the commission's budget and keep them apprised of where it stands moving forward.
8. Pam informed the group that there had been additional thefts from the downtown planters and other town-installed landscape areas. There was a brief discussion on how this could be prevented in the future. A suggestion was made that poison ivy can make a nice ground cover.
9. Pam asked the group if they would like to schedule an additional meeting for the fall to stay on top of projects. Discussion of available dates resulted in a meeting date of Monday 9/22 and will be held at Aberdeen Florist so that Janet can be in attendance. Pam offered to bring sandwiches and the group can reimburse her during the meeting.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Elease Goodwin, Chairperson

Pamela Graham, Secretary