



COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Minutes

May 6, 2015

The meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, 2015, by Karl Sale, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Nathan Coyle, Jane Creech, Levonia Corry, Deborah Harris, Diane Hundley, Carlton Jackson, Shelley Harper Palmer, Karl Sale, Tamara Sheffield, Jessica Vess

Absent: Raemi Evans

Staff: Lynn Raker, Preston Mitchell and Diana Moghrabi

Council Liaison: Maggie Blackwell

Karl Sale called the meeting to order. The April 1, 2015, minutes were approved with changes. Jessica Vess was not present at the April meeting and Levonia's name was corrected.

SIGN ORDINANCE

Preston Mitchell, Manager of Development Services at the City One Stop Shop, made a presentation to orient the CAC on the city's signage ordinance.

The original sign ordinance emanated from the Community Appearance Commission; however, it is in need of updating. The Planning Board is the statutory body that is required to make recommendations to the City Council on any text amendments or legislative actions. The Planning Board and the CAC will work together on the updates.

The sign ordinance was not changed when the new Land Development Ordinance (LDO) was adopted by City Council. It was the intention to come back to it at a later date. We are at that later date now. It needs to be user-friendly; it is inconsistent and cumbersome to read.

The two processes proposed will be administratively (meet the code) or the "ask" which is a public vetting process. Not all possibilities can be legislated.

The new sign ordinance:

- Must establish a modern community expectation.
- Strive for consistency.
- Recognize that you need to ask for unique situations. (AMDC—Alternate Methods of Design Commission may need representation from CAC.)
- It needs to be simple.
- It needs to have clear administrative standards.
- Enforcement needs to be simplified.
- Code by roadway classification and not for zoning district.

Electronic signs are being requested by Salisbury business owners. They can be very distracting and many communities prohibit video. The Planning Board Committee 1 will begin a study on electronic signs May 26 at 2:30. Three volunteers from the CAC will be asked to participate.

The city can regulate location, size, manner, and place; however the city cannot regulate sign content.

COMMITTEES

Neighborhoods and Education Committee. Eleven neighborhoods were represented at the April 16 Neighborhood Leaders Alliance meeting. The Blockwork application was presented for this year and can be found on the City Web site and facebook. BlockWork will be discussed more at the June CAC meeting. Minutes of the meeting are available.

Grants Committee. The Incentive Grants Committee met at 3 p.m. today. They approved the maximum amounts for each application since this is probably the final opportunity to distribute money this fiscal year. There is about \$1,500 remaining.

Awards include:

- A new roof on the back of the Thread Shed.
- Belle Realty will repaint windows in the 100 block of East Innes Street.
- Uncle Buck's at 127 South Main Street received a grant to repaint the back and side façade facing the interior parking lot.
- Maracas received an award to purchase café tables and lighting.
- Downtown Salisbury, Inc. maintenance for the Empire Hotel parking.

Karl Sale reported that is about \$42,000 in matching grants for downtown investment this year.

Public Art Committee. Lynn provided the brochure of the current Sculpture Show.

- There is a request for qualifications for artists with a deadline of May 15 for a memorial project that will complete the Yadkin River Veterans' Memorial Bridge. Lynn will make a presentation at the June meeting. There is a desire to make the art timeless.
- "Tickling Our Ivories" is a program in Downtown Salisbury where pianos have been painted by students in our local schools and made available for anyone to play.

Landscape of the Month. Shelley reported on nominations this month. The new system worked well. Lynn will send a script for committee members making contact with winners.

Residential—all nominations have been previous LOM winners.

- 1521 Statesville Boulevard
- 1505 Statesville Boulevard (not eligible)
- 213 West Monroe
- 505 Henderson Street

Commercial

- Wallace and Graham (Commercial Winner)
- Wendy's on East Innes Street

Rules of Procedure. Tamara Sheffield reviewed the called meeting of May 4. Minutes were provided. Highlights include the Commission will take an active role in submitting nominations for CAC appointments that include diversity in gender, skills, location, etc. Recommendations were made to include links to board pages on the application for boards and commissions in an effort to provide information. Attendance to meetings and events is very important and will be tracked.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Add Tamara Sheffield to the Landscape of the Month Committee. Add Diane Hundley to the Incentive Grants Committee. The Nominating Committee will be resurrected.

ELECTIONS FOR CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The following were nominated and elected unanimously:

- Diana Moghrabi was elected Secretary.
- Diane Hundley was elected Chair.
- Karl Sale was elected Vice Chair.

OTHER BUSINESS

Karl asked the commission members to observe the Innes Street corridor and let businesses know the grants are available for improvements.

Lynn will make a grants presentation at the June meeting.

A photo of the CAC was taken today.

The meeting adjourned.