

The Town of Smithfield Appearance Commission met on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 5:00 in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 350 East Market Street, Smithfield, North Carolina.

Members Present

Kaitlyn Tarley – Chairperson
Emery Ashley, Jr. – Vice Chairperson
Michelle Choe
Carmen Zepp

Members Absent

Robin Cook
Sharon Lynch

Staff Present

Lawrence Davis – Public Works Director
Shannan Parrish – Town Clerk

Staff Absent

Call to Order

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley informed the members of the Appearance Commission that Elizabeth Baker had resigned from the Appearance Commission.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2023

Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Carmen Zepp, to approve the October 17, 2023 minutes as submitted. Unanimously approved.

Financial Report

The provided financial reports were reviewed by the Commission, though no verbal report was given.

Agenda Items

Updates

Plantings Around I-95 Signage

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis provided an estimate from Swift Creek Nursery in the amount of \$1,398.00 for the landscaping of the I-95 East Welcome sign. The cost estimate was based on the plan approved by the Commission and developed by Landscape Architect, Clayton Narron.

Michelle Choe made a motion, seconded by Carmen Zepp, to approve the purchase of the plantings for the landscaping design at the I-95 East welcome sign. Unanimously approved.

Action Items

Vote for Bradford Tree Replacement

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley informed the members of the Appearance Commission that a local business was requesting to remove and replace 3 Bradford Pear Trees on South Second Street. Public Works Director Lawrence Davis provided the Commission with available options for the replacement of the trees. Since there were other Bradford Pear Trees along South Second Street needing to be replaced, the Commission decided to contact an arborist for other tree options. It was the consensus of the Commission to table a decision pending further research.

Donate-A-Tree Brochures

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley provided an updated version of the Donate-A-Tree brochure to the members of the Appearance Commission.

Carmen Zepp made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr., to approve the design of the brochures. Unanimously approved.

Michelle Choe made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr., to purchase 100 brochures at an estimate cost of \$100 from Hinson's Printing. Unanimously approved.

Guest Speakers – Ron & Heidi Hester with Activate Selma

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley introduced Ron and Heidi Hester both members of Activate Selma. Mr. & Mrs. Hester provided insight to the Commission on various projects in Selma. They stated that small projects ultimately became big projects with enough momentum and participation. Mrs. Hester explained the group welcomes new ideas, but expects those offering the ideas to develop actionable plans.

Mr. Hester explained that Activate Selma initiated the public art displayed throughout the Town of Selma. They partnered with Smithfield Selma High School Art students for some murals. They hired a muralist to do other murals. For the downtown art park, Mr. Hester rented sculptures from an artist in Greensboro. He explained the art students were excited to be able to display their work.

Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. stated he could contact Megan Pike the art teacher at Smithfield Selma High School to ascertain if the students were interested in doing a project in Smithfield.

Mr. & Mrs. Hester invited the members of the Appearance Commission to attend an Activate Selma meeting. The members of the Appearance Commission thanked Mr. & Mrs. Hester for their time and for sharing their ideas.

Adjourn

Having no further business, Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley made a motion, seconded by Michelle Choe, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:01 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannan L. Parrish
Town Clerk