

The Town of Smithfield Appearance Commission met on Tuesday, February 20, 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
Sharon Lynch

Members Absent

Robin Cook
Carmen Zepp

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 6:10 pm

Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2024

Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Michelle Choe, to approve the January 16, 2024 minutes as submitted. Unanimously approved.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was reviewed by the members of the Appearance Commission.

Agenda Items

Updates

Plantings Around I-95 Signage

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis informed the members of the Appearance Commission that the plantings around the I-95 welcome sign had been installed. He stated he would like to discuss the mulch needed for this landscaped area, but he did not plan to put it in place until the spring.

Donate-A-Tree Brochures

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley informed the members of the Appearance Commission that 100 brochures were printed. She will contact Marketing and Communications Specialist Brian Eaves about marketing the project on the Town's social media platforms.

Action Items

Vote for Bradford Tree Replacement

Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. stated the list of potential trees were provided to the Trial-and-Error Garden Club for their input. The Garden Club asked the Commission to consider choosing a tree with vibrant spring and fall colors. Red Bud and Black Gum Trees were discussed along with several other types of trees.

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis informed the members of the Appearance Commission that he had been asked to investigate the cost for removal and replacement of all the Bradford Pear Trees along South Second Street. He will be meeting with an arborist to determine the best course of action for the replacement of the trees.

Project Proposals

Art Projects with SSS

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley informed the members of the Appearance Commission that Activate Selma has had tremendous success partnering with art students from Smithfield Selma High School for mural projects in downtown Selma.

Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. informed the members of the Appearance Commission that he'd been unable to contact Smithfield Selma High School Art teacher, Megan Pike to ascertain if her students were interested in doing a mural project in Smithfield. He further stated there was some concern from members of the Town's Historic Properties Commission about allowing murals to be painted on historic properties in Town.

Other Ideas

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley reviewed information shared by Ron & Heidi Hester of Activate Selma. The Commission should continue focusing on collaborative efforts.

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis indicated he would like to have some discussion with the Appearance Commission concerning landscaping at Sunset Memorial Cemetery and landscaping for other wayfinding signs.

It was suggested that the members of the Appearance Commission travel around Town to identify areas for potential projects.

Chairperson Kaitlyn Tarley informed the members of the Appearance Commission that the Town was participating in NCDOT's litter sweep on April 20th. The focus will be on the local parks and greenway. At the March meeting, the Commission will determine if they want to participate in cleaning the parks or focus on another area of Town.

Public Works Director Lawrence Davis informed the Appearance Commission that the Town does have an "Adopt A Street" program if that was something the commission wished to sponsor / promote in the future.

Adjourn

Having no further business, Vice Chairperson Emery Ashley, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Sharon Lynch, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Shannan L. Parrish
Town Clerk