

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Thursday, March 18, 2010

Members present: Laurent de Comarmond, Andrew Leager, Julieta Sherk, Tom Skolnicki, Cindy Szwarcop, and Vincent Whitehurst. Omar McCallop and Elizabeth Byrd arrived after the meeting began.

Members not present: Mitch Fluhrer (*excused*), Jim Harris (*unexcused*), Tyler Highsmith (*excused*), John Holmes (*excused*), Bang Le (*unexcused*), Ted Van Dyk (*excused*), and Stan Williams (*unexcused*).

Visitors & Guests: Councilor Thomas Crowder, Mark Smith (Progress Energy liaison).

Staff present: Doug Hill.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tom Skolnicki called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Development Review Committee

Vincent Whitehurst noted that the committee meetings on March 2 and 16 had been cancelled as no new site plans had been ready for the committee's review.

Strategic/ Outreach Committee

Tom Skolnicki reported that planning for the 2010 Sir Walter Raleigh Awards is focused on finalizing the date, based on the anticipated speaker's availability.

OLD BUSINESS

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) Diagnostic and Approach Report

Tom Skolnicki offered an overview of recent commission discussion of the report, adding that he and Cindy Szwarcop had presented the commission's memorandum on Essential Design Standards at the March 17 meeting of the UDO Advisory Group. Staff had noted some points could be fleshed out in the UDO draft; the memo should also inform the Report's "approaches" options.

In further commission discussion, exchange followed regarding the public comment process, the Report, and UDO content. It was noted that turnout was low for the three public information sessions, and members felt the format did not allow for much engagement. Councilor Crowder agreed. Tom Skolnicki offered that NCSU's own design standards, crafted after extensive dialogue, have created better campus buildings. Cindy Szwarcop stated the Advisory Group's review was proceeding very slowly. Nonetheless, it had come up with many comments; it was not clear, though, how the comments would eventually be addressed. Tom Skolnicki felt a follow-up Report, containing responses to comments and suggestions from the public, should also be required of the consultants, with adequate visual examples provided to convey the meaning of the text.

REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Tom Skolnicki called for review of the minutes of the February 18 commission meeting. Laurent de Comarmond moved the minutes be approved. Andrew Leager seconded; passed unanimously. [Laurent de Comarmond, Mark Smith and Councilor Crowder left at this point.]

NEW BUSINESS

Appearance Commission Annual Report and Work Program

Tom Skolnicki noted the outline draft distributed at the meeting, and invited commission members to review and comment. He stated he will work with Vincent Whitehurst to fill the sections in, and email it to all members for additional input.

OTHER BUSINESS

Reports and Requests of Commission Members

- Vincent Whitehurst and Tom Skolnicki noted they plan to create a PowerPoint program on the Essential Design Standards, and present it to Council in April.
- Elizabeth Byrd stated she was concerned the Planning Commission would be considering the Approach Report so soon, and wondered whether the two commissions could meet for a discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the Special Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 PM.

APRIL 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Development Review Committee	Tues., April 6 - 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP Tues., April 20- 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP
Strategic/Outreach Committee	Wed., April 14 - 5:00 PM; Room 303, RMB
Appearance Commission	Thurs., April 15 - 5:30 PM; Room 305, RMB