

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2010

Members present: Elizabeth Byrd, Tyler Highsmith, Julieta Sherk, Tom Skolnicki, Ted Van Dyk, and Vincent Whitehurst. Stan Williams arrived after the meeting began.

Members not present: Laurent de Comarmond (*excused*), Mitch Fluhrer (*excused*), Jim Harris (*unexcused*), John Holmes (*excused*), Bang Le (*excused*), Andrew Leager (*excused*), Omar McCallop (*unexcused*) and Cindy Szwarcop (*excused*).

Visitors & Guests: Mary Archer, Iris Roberts, Maggie Watts (NCSU students); Mark Smith (Progress Energy liaison).

Staff present: Doug Hill.

REVIEW OF MARCH 18 MINUTES

A vote on the minutes was postponed until the May commission meeting, due to lack of quorum.

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; at the April 6 meeting, the sole applicant did not appear, and review of the item was postponed.

Strategic/ Outreach Committee

Elizabeth Byrd reported that the County has indicated it would support an interim appearance improvement for the new parking deck on McDowell Street. The City has declared that graphical banners would not be considered signs. She also noted she was checking with the Durham Performing Arts Center banner makers, as to why some of the banners there had been removed. Tom Skolnicki noted that the anticipated speaker for this year's Sir Walter Raleigh Awards will not be available. He asked the commission to suggest other possible speakers. Stan Williams provided an update on efforts to secure sponsors for the event.

OLD BUSINESS

"Essential Design Standards" Presentation to City Council

Tom Skolnicki reported on the April 6 presentation to Council, which focused on the commission's memorandum concerning the need to include minimum design standards in the new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Council comments included note that attention should also be paid to present and future rail corridors. He added that at the presentation he had stressed the importance of including visuals in future discussion of UDO options.

May 4 Council/ Commissions Discussion: UDO Diagnostic & Approach Report

Tom Skolnicki noted that he, Vincent Whitehurst, and Elizabeth Byrd planned to attend the event, which will be held at the Urban Design Center. Ted Van Dyk and Julieta Sherk expressed interest in attending as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Appearance Commission Annual Report and Work Program

Tom Skolnicki outlined the highlights of the document. Members present voiced their approval. The report is being forwarded to the City Council, with Tom Skolnicki to appear at Council’s May 4 meeting to address any questions and get feedback regarding the work program request.

OTHER BUSINESS

Run for the Oaks

Mark Smith reported that the annual run had had fewer participants this year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20 PM.

MAY 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Development Review Committee	Tues., May 4 - 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP Tues., May 18 - 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP
Strategic/Outreach Committee	Wed., May 12 - 5:00 PM; Room 303, RMB
Appearance Commission	Thurs., May 20 - 5:30 PM; Room 305, RMB