

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

Members present: Jim Harris, Tyler Highsmith, John Holmes, Leza Mundt, Dean Rains, Julieta Sherk, Robert Taylor, Vincent Whitehurst, and Stan Williams. Elizabeth Byrd arrived after the meeting began.

Members not present: Bang Le (*unexcused*), Omar McCallop (*excused*), Tom Skolnicki (*excused*), Cindy Szwarcop (*excused*), and Ted Van Dyk (*excused*).

Visitors Present: Corey Bates (for rezoning case Z-11-10).

Staff present: Elizabeth Alley, Doug Hill (City Planning Department).

REVIEW OF JUNE MINUTES

Vincent Whitehurst, chairing the meeting in Tom Skolnicki's absence, called for review of the minutes of the June 17 commission meeting. Julieta Sherk moved that the minutes be approved. Vincent Whitehurst seconded; passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Vincent Whitehurst invited the commission's three newly-appointed members – Leza Mundt, Dean Rains, and Robert Taylor – to say a few words about themselves and their interests regarding City appearance. Other members of the commission in turn introduced themselves to the new members.

REVIEW OF ZONING CASE Z-11-10

Vincent Whitehurst noted the amendments to the proposal submitted since the commission's June review; commission discussion followed. Following discussion, the commission voted unanimously to recommend that the applicants consider amending their proposal to include the following additional provisions:

1. That, in Condition (d), "residential" be deleted from the definition of "active uses."
2. That, in Condition (e), in complement to the 50% minimum percentage of active uses provided for building façades at sidewalk level on Ashe Avenue, Park Avenue, and the east side of Wakefield Avenue, a minimum percentage of residential uses at sidewalk level also be conditioned. This figure is intended to assure continuity of existing residential character, while reducing the potential percentage of driveways, parking deck facades, and/or utility areas along the street fronts.
3. That, in Condition (i), the specified pedestrian path be provided regardless of any potential abandonment of Whitley Street, and that the path be positioned close to mid-block between Ashe Avenue and W. Morgan Street.
4. That, in Condition (k), a minimum amount of non-residential square footage be conditioned, along with a maximum square footage for single non-residential spaces,

such that the allotted 20,000 sf maximum will be comprised of a combination of multiple tenants, rather than one single tenant.

5. That, in the Streetscape Plan, details of lighting fixtures (p. 11) be delineated and provided for Appearance Commission review prior to approval of the Plan by the City Council [in accordance with Code Sec. 10-2055(f)(2)].
6. That, in the Streetscape Plan, the list of Proposed Street Trees (p. 14) be amended to include additional and/ or alternate species, particularly in regard to species to be positioned under overhead power lines, and provided for Appearance Commission review prior to approval of the Plan by the City Council [in accordance with Code Sec. 10-2055(f)(2)].

The comments are to be forwarded in the form of a memorandum to the City Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic/ Outreach Committee

Sir Walter Raleigh Awards: Stan Williams urged all members to assist in securing sponsorships. He also noted former Raleigh mayor Smedes York had expressed an interest in introducing event speaker Tom Murphy; commission consensus in that regard was positive. *(Stan Williams left the meeting at this point.)*

Wake County Parking Deck Aesthetic Improvements: Elizabeth Byrd noting she is still waiting to hear back from Empire Properties regarding the banner proposal (as an alternative to painting the exposed concrete surfaces).

Development Review Committee

Vincent Whitehurst reported on site plans reviewed at the July 6 committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Capital Boulevard Corridor Study Workshop

Julieta Sherk noted about 200 people had attended the June 24 discussion. The study now moves on to an inventory and analysis of existing conditions. A public design charrette will be held in October.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Vincent Whitehurst called for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee for the commission officers, whose terms will begin September 1. Elizabeth Byrd, Jim Harris, and Tyler Highsmith agreed to serve.

(Elizabeth Byrd left the meeting at this point.)

Committee Assignments

Vincent Whitehurst noted that, coinciding with the new appointments to the commission, the following new assignments had been made to committees:

Development Review Committee – Bang Le, Elizabeth Byrd, and Leza Mundt

Strategic/ Outreach Committee – Dean Rains and Robert Taylor

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 PM.

AUGUST 2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Development Review Committee	Tues., Aug. 3 – 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP * Tues., Aug. 17 – 4:00 PM; Room 809, OEP
Strategic/Outreach Committee	Wed., Aug. 11 – 5:00 PM; Room 303, RMB
Appearance Commission	Thurs., Aug. 19 – 5:30 PM; Room 305, RMB

Sir Walter Raleigh Awards:

Award Recipient Review by City Council	Tuesday, Aug. 3 – approx. 3:00 PM; Room 203, RMB
---	--

* Meeting cancelled (no plans ready for review)