

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Tuesday, February 15, 2010

Members present: Jedidiah Gant, John Holmes, Bang Le, Wayne Maiorano, Leza Mundt, Dean Rains, Julieta Sherk, Robert Taylor, Ted Van Dyk, and Vincent Whitehurst. Elizabeth Byrd, Omar McCallop, and Stan Williams arrived after the meeting began.

Members not present: Jim Harris (*unexcused*), and Tyler Highsmith (*unexcused*).

Guest: Mark Smith (*Progress Energy liaison*).

Staff present: Planning Division Manager Christine Darges, Doug Hill.

REVIEW OF JANUARY MINUTES

Vincent Whitehurst called for review of the minutes of the January 18 commission meeting. Leza Mundt moved that the minutes be approved. Robert Taylor seconded; passed unanimously.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Vincent Whitehurst welcomed Jedidiah Gant to the commission. Mr. Gant outlined his background and interests; other members of the commission introduced themselves in turn.

UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (UDO) UPDATE

Christine Darges of the Planning Department, Project Manager for the UDO update, provided an overview of the effort's status, and the key components of revised Module 1 (the Districts and Uses section). She also noted the project consultants will be submitting a report summarizing other cities' experiences with design review. Looking ahead, current plans are for the draft UDO provisions to go forward for public review and comment beginning in April; city-wide remapping will occur after the final version's approval. Discussion of various draft components followed, during which it was stated:

- Raleigh needs to demand better design from those who build here; the UDO should do more to address how.
- Both horizontal and vertical mixes of use are to be allowed in most mixed use districts.
- In "open lot" areas, there may be restrictions imposed on percentage of impervious surfaces.
- There will be standards that specify thresholds of redevelopment at which UDO provisions will be engaged.
- Most building types will be required to have at least one entrance facing the adjacent street, accessible by a sidewalk.
- In Parking Limited, a "big box" building could serve as a liner building.
- The UDO is not expected to discourage stand-alone uses.
- No minimum number of stories will be specified, unless there is an area-specific correlation with the Comprehensive Plan.
- RX and OX districts could be adjacent if a case could be made it was consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, but such situations are not anticipated.
- Churches will continue to be a permitted institutional use in residential zoning districts.

- Appearance Commission comments should be brought forward during the upcoming public comment period (April – June).

OLD BUSINESS

2011 Sir Walter Raleigh Awards Planning

Vincent Whitehurst noted a meeting with representatives of the Urban Land Institute was held February 7 to initiate partnering for this year’s awards. Ted Van Dyk added he and Mr. Whitehurst had met with the Mayor to discuss the need for sufficient funding for the program.

Interim Aesthetic Improvements: Wake County Parking Deck

Elizabeth Byrd reported that at the City Council meeting earlier that afternoon, Council members had asked the City legal and planning staff to look into language amending the approved site plan, which would allow the banner alternative. She added that the banner designs will be the subject of a charrette at the College of Design the coming weekend, with installation of the final designs possible in May.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commission Photo

Noting the hour, Vincent Whitehurst called for the new photo to be taken a future meeting (perhaps March 15).

Transit Station Alternatives

Doug Hill noted that staff would like to provide the commission with an update on transit station planning, perhaps at the March 1 committees’ meeting; there was consensus approval from the commission.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:27 PM.

MARCH 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Development Review Committee/
Strategic-Outreach Committee

Tues., Mar. 1 – 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP

Development Review Committee/
Appearance Commission

Tues., Mar. 15 – 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP