

**RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 15, 2011**

**Members present:** Elizabeth Byrd, John Holmes, Bang Le, Wayne Maiorano, Leza Mundt, Robert Taylor, and Vincent Whitehurst. Dean Rains and Omar McCallop arrived after the meeting began.

**Members not present:** Jedidiah Gant (*excused*), Jim Harris (*unexcused*), Tyler Highsmith (*unexcused*), Julieta Sherk (*excused*), Ted Van Dyk (*excused*), and Stan Williams (*excused*).

**Staff present:** City Planning staff members Ken Bowers, Grant Meacci, Martin Stankus, Dhanya Sandeep, and Doug Hill.

**INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION: NEW BERN AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY**

Martin Stankus outlined the purpose and scope of the study, pointing out that pedestrian connectivity, streetscapes, and storm drainage had emerged as key issues. In discussion, it was noted that greater design continuity among redevelopment projects might be accomplished through more mixed-use rezoning. Under consideration is changing roadway sections near downtown to two-way traffic, along with supporting bicycle travel with bike lanes and multi-purpose paths. Traffic flow may preclude a roundabout at the Poole/ New Bern intersection, but the idea is being explored. The need for a continuous sidewalk on the north side of the street, especially near Enloe High School, has been noted. Efforts to express the history and cultural identity of the corridor were also suggested. In terms of next steps, staff stated it is hoped that the study will provide a basis for future Capital Improvement Program funding. Vincent Whitehurst asked that the commission be kept informed as streetscape planning takes shape. He requested the commission be provided with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation shared at the meeting; Grant Meacci suggested the results of the "right-sizing" study of downtown sidewalks also could go out. *(The meeting was temporarily recessed following discussion, to allow a new commission photograph to be taken.)*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NC Senate Bill 183**

Ken Bowers, current Legislative Committee Chair for the NC Chapter of the American Planning Association, provided the commission with an overview of the content and status of the bill. The proposal seeks to increase the allowable tree removal area in front of billboards located in major roads, while removing local authority to limit billboard number and placement (including those of digital billboards).

**REVIEW OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

Vincent Whitehurst called for review of the minutes of the February 15 commission meeting. Elizabeth Byrd moved that the minutes be approved. Dean Rains seconded; passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Unified Development Ordinance**

Doug Hill noted that the complete draft of the UDO will be released the first week of April.

**2011 Sir Walter Raleigh Awards Planning**

Vincent Whitehurst expressed the need to line up funding sources. Robert Taylor is to check with Ted Van Dyk regarding the venue. Doug Hill asked for commission suggestions regarding design and content of event-related publications. Ideas included developing several concepts for a Call for Nominations mailer, including images of past winners to help convey the awards’ variety, and retaining the Sir Walter Raleigh “oval” but at a reduced size.

**Interim Aesthetic Improvements: Wake County Parking Deck**

Elizabeth Byrd stated that 15 banner design packages had been developed by students at the NCSU College of Design, with selections narrowed to 5. Design and production are on track for May completion. A public event is being considered, to coincide with June’s First Friday offerings.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NC Senate Bill 183 (con’t.)**

In further discussion, Wayne Maiorano expressed apprehension over the bill’s provision for overriding local authority. Vincent Whitehurst suggested the commission note its concerns in a recommendation to City Council; members agreed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Beltline Graffiti**

Wayne Maiorano asked what could be done regarding graffiti along the Beltline. Leza Mundt said she would check further at NCDOT. Doug Hill noted City resources available outside State-maintained areas – the graffiti hotline and “See Click Fix” web site.

**Meeting Dates and Times**

Vincent Whitehurst asked whether any members wished to further refine the new meeting times. Responses included appreciation for the reduced number of meetings, and note that they should not begin any later than 5:00 PM. Mr. Whitehurst said he would send out an email polling all commission members for their comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:39 PM.

*APRIL 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE*

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Development Review Committee/  
Strategic-Outreach Committee

Tues., Apr. 5 – 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP

Development Review Committee/  
Appearance Commission

Tues., Apr. 19 – 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP