

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 2011

Members present: Asa Fleming, Bang Le, Wayne Maiorano, Leza Mundt, Lee Tripi, and Vincent Whitehurst. Dean Rains arrived just after the meeting began.

Members not present: Elizabeth Byrd (*excused*), Jedidiah Gant (*excused*), Tyler Highsmith (*unexcused*), John Holmes (*excused*), Julieta Sherk (*excused*), Robert Taylor (*excused*), Ted Van Dyk (*excused*), and Stan Williams (*excused*).

Guest present: Mark Smith (Progress Energy liaison).

Staff present: Doug Hill.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Vincent Whitehurst welcomed Asa Fleming and Lee Tripi to the commission. They offered note of their backgrounds and interests regarding community appearance; other commission members introduced themselves in turn.

REVIEW OF JUNE MINUTES

Vincent Whitehurst postponed review of the minutes of the June 21 commission meeting, as a quorum was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

2011 Sir Walter Raleigh Awards

Dean Rains recapped the July 15 jurying of the awards, and the City Council review of designated recipients held earlier in the afternoon of the commission meeting. Vincent Whitehurst noted that winners were now confirmed, as were the venue and speaker; regarding the speaker's topic, he will confer with Ted Van Dyk.

Interim Aesthetic Improvements: Wake County Parking Deck

Doug Hill noted the banners were being installed and the work appeared to be on track for the August 5 First Friday "unveiling."

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee – Election of Officers

Vincent Whitehurst called for three volunteers to form the Nominating Committee for the coming term's officers; Bang Le, Leza Mundt and Dean Rains agreed to serve. The election, per the commission Bylaws, is to take place at the August meeting.

New Directions for Commission Outreach

Vincent Whitehurst noted the commission's current efforts and initiatives, but suggested that the commission consider other opportunities to serve, and to lead. There has been discussion of the commission spearheading public dialogue regarding good design; discussion followed as to organizing a roundtable series, and expanding media outreach

(columns/ blog/ social media, etc.). Bang Le suggested building on the model offered by the parking deck improvement initiative: identifying a major appearance need and acting to remedy it. Asa Fleming suggested a thematic approach to defining how Raleigh's urban design should reflect City character; Lee Tripi noted that most such discussions have come down to projecting creativity and innovation. Wayne Maiorano made note of the recent [seminar](#) on attracting the "creative class", and efforts of the new [Midtown Raleigh Alliance](#) group at fostering identity. Bang Le hoped for a third element in the mix: public art initiatives spreading beyond downtown, as per [Lenoir's](#) example. Following additional discussion, Vincent Whitehurst called on commission members to consider such ideas and opportunities further, and continue the dialogue at the August meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Public Arts Policy

Leza Mundt, the commission's representative on the task force, stated the group had met the previous week; she noted she had emailed a copy of the draft policy to all Appearance Commission members, and asked for comments and suggestions.

Meeting Dates

Vincent Whitehurst noted that the change over to the commission and its committees solely meeting on Tuesdays had created problems for some members' attending. In discussion, the consensus was that 4:00 PM on the first and third Wednesdays of the month might be a viable alternative. Doug Hill is to check with staff regarding any potential issues the change might raise.

Upcoming Events

Doug Hill made note of a series of public events scheduled in the coming weeks:

- July 20: "Urban Landscape Design for Healthy Childhoods" - Urban Design Center Lunch Forum presentation (133 Fayetteville Street)
- August 3: "Sustaining Community Gardens" - Urban Design Center Lunch Forum presentation
- August 4: New Bern Avenue Corridor Study Public Workshop - 7 PM, Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church (1950 New Bern Avenue)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10 PM.

AUGUST 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

Development Review Committee/
Strategic-Outreach Committee

Tues., August 2 - 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP

Development Review Committee/
Appearance Commission

Tues., August 16 - 4:30 PM; Room 809, OEP