

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, June 19, 2014

Members present: John Koonce, Jedidiah Gant, Cari Jones, Brian O’Haver, Julieta Sherk, Bang Le, Elizabeth Byrd, Asa Fleming, Dean Rains, Kelli Goss Hopkins, Rolf Blizzard, Damien Graham, Robby Johnson, Victor Bruinton

Members not present: Tika Hicks (EXCUSED??)

Staff present: Elizabeth Alley

UDO alternates

Ken Bowers provided a brief overview of the UDO Administrative Alternate Review Process, the Commission’s role in that process, how appeals will be handled, and the importance of consistent review given the evidentiary hearing nature of the appeals process. He also gave an overview of a concept for courtesy reviews that would provide guidance and feedback from the Commission prior to submittal. This concept would not provide a change of code as it is a procedural amendment. No other codes in NC have administrative alternates, and we could see a significant number of alternate applications (forecast at approx. 20 per year).

Julieta Sherk asked whether the Commission would be reviewing specifics during the courtesy review. Mr. Bowers replied yes, that there would need to be a good level of detail to receive feedback.

Ms. Byrd asked about the scope of the review. Mr. Bowers responded that the review would be restricted to the topics needing an alternate and the means to address the findings related to the alternate. Ms. Byrd noted that the Commission has pushed for courtesy review for quite some time, and supports the idea. Mr. Le asked whether these courtesy reviews would be conducted as a full body in a public meeting, or as a smaller group. Mr. Bowers noted that he didn’t have a strong preference, but that a smaller committee would need for the full Commission to vote on the alternate due to code requirements.

The Courtesy review could be addressed as part of a smaller committee for advice without coming back to the full Commission. This would be an increase in the workload.

Mr. Le stated that the Commission has found that open dialogue has improved design quality.

Ms. Sherk asked how to ensure a high quality review; Mr. Bowers noted the importance of staff’s advisory role as the Commission finds its legs. The Commission is an advisory body, but it is Mr Bower’s hope that the product that comes out of the Commission is ready for the Director’s signature.

Mr. O’Haver noted that there is a need to work on the process. Mr. Gant asked if a motion is needed tonight, or if it could happen later. Mr. Le expressed his desire for a motion tonight to start the process of establishing a program.

Ms. Byrd requested that we have further test cases, of a more challenging nature, in the near future. Mr Bowers noted the possibility of a mock case but with a real development potentially with the applicant

present. The Commission expressed their support for the test case, and asked staff to continue considering the Courtesy Review concept.

Bang Le noted that the reason we have a large review board is to have more eyes, expertise and points of view on the projects and provide opportunity for education and dialogue, and supports the opportunity for reviews to be before the whole Commission.

Elizabeth Byrd suggested adding this to the agenda of a future meeting.

Lenoir-South Two Way Conversion

- The Commission recommends that a portion of the abelias be replaced with another evergreen that is greener during the winter months.
- The Commission recommends that the City consider the addition of a landscaped island or pedestrian refuge on South Street west of Salisbury Street.
- The Commission commends the choice of crape myrtles, and the timely conversion of these roads to two-way traffic.
- The Commission supports the improvement of the bus stop and suggests the City continue to seek opportunity for similar improvements.

REVIEW OF June 5th, 2014 MINUTES

Bang Le called for a review of the minutes. Elizabeth Byrd moved that the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Brian O'Haver and the motion passed unanimously.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

SWRA working group

Cari Jones asked Commissioners to spread the word about the deadline, and encourage nominations.

Design excellence working group

The group will meet prior to the next full Commission meeting.

Solid Waste group

Bang Le reported that Council placed the item in Public Works Committee and will be heard on Tuesday June 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 pm.