

RALEIGH APPEARANCE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2015

Members attending: Andre Johnson, Brandy Thompson, Brian O’Haver, Dean Rains, Julieta Sherk, Rolf Blizzard

Members excused: Asa Fleming, Candice Andre, Cari Jones, Jamie Ferguson, Jedidiah Gant, John Koonce, Kelli Goss, Michael Kelly, Robby Johnston

Staff attending: Dhanya Sandeep, Rotonda McKoy

Site Plan Review

SP-49-15 Valvoline Instant Oil Change

- The Commission compliments the use of brick on all four sides of the facade.
- The Commission compliments the good variety of plant species included in the planting plan.
- The Commission commends the reforestation at the rear of the lot and suggests consideration of larger caliper trees planted at wider spacing.
- The Commission compliments the reduction of curb cuts along Falls of Neuse Road.
- The Commission suggests considering alternative measures to shade the sidewalk for pedestrians, and suggests one alternative as relocating one of the two trees in the east corner of the site closer to the sidewalk along the right-of-way subject to NCDOT approval. Another alternative is to arc the side walk back closer to the trees in that area.

Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the August 20th meeting minutes. Rolf Blizzard moved that the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Dean Rains and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commission reviewed the September 3rd meeting minutes. Rolf Blizzard moved that the minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Brian O’Haver and the motion passed unanimously.

Working Group Reports

The Appearance Commission’s annual report to Council was well received and accepted. There was energetic discussion amongst Council members about the role of the Appearance Commission as we move forward. The City Attorney’s staff will review and report back on the authority of Commission members to review text changes relative to observed trends and material quality as it relates to active uses on pedestrian level and connectivity (green and open spaces) and quality of construction materials. There was discussion about Appearance Commission’s involvement in looking at alternatives to the

Hillsborough Street roundabouts. These roundabouts have been great to move cars but not supportive of bikes and pedestrians circulation.

The Commission discussed the need to pursue voice for the reviewing project sooner in the process. There were concerns shared that their body of expertise has not been utilized to the full extent by the City. The UDO review process further diminishes their involvement in review of projects. The Commission would like to get involved upfront in the review process to provide opportunities to shape a better design product. Partnership opportunities with the University to promote design excellence were discussed. ULI initiative to address affordable housing was identified as an opportunity to partner with, to raise the design bar.

Other Business

The Commission congratulated each other on the success of the Sir Walter Awards event. Overall, members received a positive public response on the new format that fostered better interaction between participants and award winners. The food and music were much appreciated. There was some discussion about reducing the breaks for the event and the appropriateness of having community leaders give away awards and speak at the event. Commission will reconsider these items for next year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:10 pm.