

Polk County Appearance Commission Meeting

1-23-2018

Meeting began at 5:30

Present: Joe Cooper, David Friday, Carolyn Ashburn, Ernie Kan, Cathy Brettman

Guest: Melinda Massey, Travel and Tourism Director for Polk County

1. Melinda: WEG update- Meeting with Lexington, KY people who handled the WEG event there in 2010 helped a lot, created great priority list. Suggested was to clean up towns, curb appeal, trash p/up, and mowing, planting flowers in shades of blue. (WEG colors are blue and gold) Don't go overboard, just make your town look clean and inviting, (Sound familiar?) Cost- \$10 million in emergency services, asking State Legislature for help with public safety. Not much left for other resources, i.e. plants, clean-up, etc. The county is asking the locals to take care of it.

Joe: Polk is 1 of 10 counties taken care of by the DOT. If there's no budget, how can we as towns/communities work together? Scott Welborn at P.C. Extension office has offered to get plants/flowers at his special cost the towns and businesses. Melinda needs help with Wayfaring Signs for the county and clean up in monetary form. These are extremely expensive and something that we (PCAP) have been talking about for quite a few years and agree with the importance of their use. 72 Countries will be represented, some towns are thinking of getting small flags for each country. Smaller towns in outskirts of Lexington did this and it was nice.

PCCF was discussed as a possibility for funding that might be available for the towns/county for the Wayfaring Signs that would be a permanent improvement and much needed. Joe should go as representative. Cathy will contact Noah at PCCF for an appointment for Joe. Carolyn suggested Noah as contact at PCCF. Which grants would be appropriate for the Appearance Commission to sponsor a portion of Wayfaring Signs? Melinda will get together a small packet for Joe to take with pictures, bids, etc, when he talks to Noah so he is prepared with a proposal for what we are asking for.

David will write an article showing our support of the project and Melinda will proof. (Joe also) Melinda will be ordering Phase 1 of the Wayfaring Signs soon.

UgoTour – Melinda has purchased this as free app visitors can download for audio tours in each town, businesses, etc, whoever wants to do it.

Financial, Carolyn - \$297.00 is in the Home Trust Bank Account and we have our new check for the 501(c)(3). \$2099.00 balance is in our main account/budget.

Website, David – Is working with Wendy Thomas who is converting everything on the website to PDF. As of January 2018, all minutes will be on the website in PDF, including Grant forms, Beautification Applications, etc.

2. Next WEG meeting is January 24th at 3pm.

3. Budget Suggestions– To be discussed at next meeting.

4. Doughboy Statue – Joe has made arrangements with Kara Warren from Biltmore to come on Thursday Feb. 1st at 11:00am. She's an outdoor statue conservator for Biltmore in Asheville and will inspect the statue and give suggestions as to how to clean and preserve it. The PC Commissioners have asked the Appearance Commission to oversee this.

5. Kudzu – We have initiated and promoted kudzu projects on 176 from Tryon to Saluda and Hwy 9 to US 74 to Lake Lure. Babs Strickland is pushing for a program to eradicate. PCAP fully supports this project. Perhaps David could mention this in the article also?

6. Bike Plan – A network of bicycle lanes has been proposed. We don't know much yet. Carolyn – Saluda has their own plan. Commissioners have to approve to put in 20% of the cost in Polk County.

Carolyn is going to talk to Janna about where we are in the process of the 501 (c)(3) and reimburse her for her expenses in the set up with the state. (See paperwork with minutes)

Adjourned – 7:15

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Brettman