AMHERST COUNTY
ROUTE 29 BUSINESS
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

AMHERST
Perfect Slice of Virginia

MINUTES

DATE: April 23, 2024
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Administrative Office Comp

1. Call to Order

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Jones (Chair), Lori Saunders, Calvin Kennon, Dottie Rucker, Benita Unrue, Teresa Brooks, Tony McBride, Nate Young & Tyler Creasy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Virginia Myers

STAFF PRESENT: Stacey Stinnett, Deputy S.W. Martin & Jeremy Lombardo

STAFF ABSENT: Warren Gillespie

Chair Jones called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes for March 26, 2024

A. Minutes Attachment

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:
Motion to approve the March 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
Motion made by: Saunders
Second: Unrue
Motion carried by a 8-0 vote. (Young abstained)

3. Route 29 Business Beautification Mini-Grant

A. T&C Davis Properties LLC

The Route 29 Business Beautification Committee discussed the mini-grant for T&C Davis

Properties and the majority felt that the funding should only be put towards the facade improvements and not to the roof being replaced.

Mrs. Saunders did not agree with the rest of the committee and stated that fixing the roof was still an improvement. Mrs. Saunders reminded the committee of being "business friendly".

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:
Motion to approve T&C Davis Properties, LLC up to $5000 of the Mini-Grant for phase one of facade improvements.
Motion made by: Kennon
Second: Unrue
Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

4. Discussion of County Seal

Mr. Creasy informed the committee that the discussion of Anderson's Country Market using the county seal on their muriel had been brought to the Board of Supervisors attention. It was decided that there would be a copyright for the county seal, a policy would be established, and legal documents put in place by the County Attorney. Mr. Creasy stated that once this process is complete, then the committee can approve the Anderson Country Market mini-grant, and they can complete the legal copyright forms that the county puts in place.

5. Gateway Sign Update

Mr. McBride informed the committee that the Gateway Sign is finished and he would try to install next week.

6. Discussion Regarding Donations

Mr. Creasy briefly updated the commission regarding the request for the committee to accept donations. After speaking with the County Attorney, County Administrator and the Finance Director, Mr. Creasy stated that a form would have to be generated, and a separate account set up. Mr. Creasy stated that before bringing it to the Board of Supervisors' attention, he would like to see the committee spend down the current funds on related corridor improvement projects.

7. Budget Review

A. Budget Attachment

Mrs. Stinnett briefly reviewed the budget report with the committee.

8. Old/New Business

Staff recognized Public Works for their clean-up efforts on Ridge Street and their help with planting at the Gateway sign.

Mr. Creasy stated that he would like to discuss at the next meeting a date that the committee, staff and Public Works can get together and mulch throughout the corridor. Mr. Lombardo requested the week before Memorial Day because many of his staff may be on vacation.

Mr. Creasy welcomed the committee to attend the Chamber of Commerce dinner on May 23, 2024. Dinner tickets are $50.00. Mr. Kennon stated that the Chamber would be recognizing the Route 29 BBC for their work throughout the corridor.

The committee had a brief discussion about the banners and if they should change the designs or keep them as they are. Staff requested that Mr. McBride create some mock designs to share with the committee. Mr. McBride did encourage the committee to stay with the vinyl banners and not go to the metal because they bend easier and can be a safety hazard if blown off poles. Staff also asked Mr. McBride if he could get a count on how many banners needed to be replaced.

9. Adjournment

Route 29 Business Beautification Committee Recommendation:
Motion to adjourn.
Motion made by: Saunders
Second: Creasy
Motion carried by a 9-0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Beverly C. Jones
Chairman