



Graham Appearance Commission Meeting Agenda

March 21, 2022

6:00pm

Graham City Hall

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Invocation
4. Approval of minutes from February 21, 2022 meeting
5. **Items of Discussion**

New Business:

- 5A. Appointment of Officers
- 5B. Arbor Day Presentation
- 5C. Text Amendment Presentation
- 5D. Residential Appearance Award (Spring Discussion)

6. City Council Updates
7. Other Items of Discussion
8. Adjourned

Item #4

MINUTES

Graham Appearance Commission Meeting

February 21, 2022

City Hall Council Chambers

In attendance:

Bonnie Whitaker (Chair), Zipporah Clark-Baldwin (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Ray, Judy Hall, Carmen Larrimore, Bernadette Konzelmann, and Cameron West

- **Call Meeting to Order**

- Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence

- **Approval of Minutes from December 21, 2021**

- Whittaker makes the motion to approve, seconded by Clark-Baldwin

- **Items of Discussion:**

- New Business: Appearance Commission Duty Discussion
 - West presented the document discussing the roles and duties of the Appearance Commission.
- New Business: Current Projects
 - West provided members with a running list of current projects the Commission have actively implemented as parts of their duty.
 - Discussed projects like the Business Beautification Grant, Residential/Business Appearance awards, litter clean up, AC Rocks Scavenger Hunt, Better Block Trailer, and the influence on Downtown Planters.
- New Business: Potential Projects
 - West provided members with a list of potential projects that were left behind from the previous Planner and additional projects the Commission could take on.
 - West and the board discussed potential topics of Gateway Improvements, offering free bags of seeds for residents to plant themselves, a community seed swap event, Art Competitions on the square, Video Promotional Campaigns, and the offering of services to design artistic displays in empty or underutilized areas.
 - Additional topics mentioned by the Commission Member were utilizing a sunflower garden, partnering with multiple internal and external organizations to complete these projects, a new slogan for the City as a whole, and a proposed text amendment to discuss front yard furniture and overgrown/clippings grass issues.
- New Business: Combination of Appearance Commission and Tree Board

- West provided members with the adopted language by City Council on the combination of the two boards.
 - West mentioned all members of the Appearance Commission were asked to serve as a member on the upcoming board combination
 - Further discussion was held on what the combination of the boards would look like and how much more of an impact we could have with the combination.
 - The commission discussed the upcoming Arbor Day events and how they would be a part of it.
- **City Council Updates**
 - Council Member Hall and Chin were both in attendance and mentioned the combination of the two boards was a positive step in the right direction for Graham.
- **Other items of discussion**
 - West will provide information on Arbor Day discussion at the next meeting and will discuss any comments the Commission may have.
- **Meeting Adjourned. Motion made by Whitaker, seconded by Ray at 7:18 PM**

Item #5C

City of Graham Code of Ordinance Proposals:

1. All owners are responsible to remove debris and grass clippings from sidewalks.
2. No person shall place or allow to remain to the elements, whether outdoors or within an enclosed porch or similar area, any chair, sofa, bed, table or similar furniture which is not designed and intended for outdoor use and which is thereby readily susceptible to deterioration.
3. Change Ordinance ...growth of grass, weeds or other noxious vegetation in excess of 18 inches high to 12 inches high.

Item #5D

March 26, 2019

Graham Residential Appearance Award

Think your yard is the best in the neighborhood? The City of Graham, is launching a new initiative aimed at recognizing the hard work and pride exhibited by residents who beautify their yard and contribute to the aesthetic appeal of our community.

Graham Appearance Commission members will judge residences using the criteria in the Residential Appearance Award scoring matrix. Anyone may nominate a yard, including the judges, but the yard needs to be located within the City limits or ETJ. Each season Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter a new home will be selected for the award. Award winners will be selected in May, July, September, and December. The Appearance Commission Chair, Vanessa Coble, says,

“The goal of the program is intended to inspire residents in their yard and to improve the overall quality of life in Graham.”

Winners will be provided with the Residential Appearance Award yard sign to be placed in the front of the house or in the side yard and a picture of the yard (with the award recipient’s permission) will be placed on the City’s Facebook page along with a press release to local news outlets.

You may nominate your own yard or someone else’s yard by filling out a Residential Appearance nomination form is available on the City of Graham website at or may be picked up at the Graham Municipal Building located at 201 South Main St., Graham, NC. Nominations are due respectively by May 9th, July 4th, September 5th, and December 5th (for holiday decorating). For more details about the program including nomination forms please visit:

<http://www.cityofgraham.com/city-hall/boards-and-commissions/appearance-commission/>

Questions as well as nomination forms may be emailed to Alexa Powell, Planner, at planner@cityofgraham.com or they may be mailed or dropped off at City Hall, 201 S. Main St. Graham, NC 27253.

- This is a press release from 2019.
- I believe this would be a great push out for the Residential Appearance Awards throughout the 2022 year.
- We’ll look at the dates and discuss any changes that need to be made for a new press release this year.