



Graham Appearance Commission/Tree Board

Meeting Agenda

April 4, 2022

6:00pm

Graham City Hall

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

New Business:

- 5A. Appointment of Officers
- 5B. Meeting Date Change
- 5C. Arbor Day Poster Contest
- 5D. Text Amendment Presentation
- 5E. Spring Clean-Up Discussion (Set Dates)
- 5F. Residential Appearance Award (Spring Discussion) (Set Dates)

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

Item #4

MINUTES

Graham Appearance Commission Meeting

March 21, 2022

City Hall Council Chambers

In attendance:

Zipporah Clark-Baldwin (Vice-Chair), Cheryl Ray, Judy Hall, Carmen Larrimore, Bernadette Konzelmann, Bonnie Whitaker, 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**
 - Hall makes the motion to approve, seconded by Konzelmann
- **Items of Discussion:**
 - New Business: Arbor Day Presentation
 - Brandy McCandless presented information about the upcoming Arbor day event being hosted in the City of Graham.
 - West mentioned this was a part of the Tree Board duties and was information to gather for the future of the board.
 - Further questions were posed regarding timing and events hosted throughout the month.
 - Discussion was held about the number of tree plantings that were being given away for the event.
 - New Business: Text Amendment Presentation
 - West presented a proposed text amendment to the Code of Ordinance provided by Hall.
 - West noted that the intent of the amendment was to change measures associated with grass clippings on the sidewalk, outdoor furniture, and grass height to be considered a nuisance.
 - Further discussion was held surrounding the concerns with regulating outdoor furniture on an enclosed or open porch.
 - Members of the board were in common agreement that 18 inches of grass is a lot and were acceptable with the change to 12 inches.
 - West noted he would figure out the pathway to get these amendments heard and present them at the next meeting.
 - New Business: Residential Appearance Award (Spring Discussion)
 - West noted that the seasonal appearance award was approaching and nominations would start in the coming months.
- **City Council Updates**

- Council Member Whitaker attended the meeting and had no updates from Council.
- **Other items of discussion**
 - West will provide information on the Spring Clean-up and further text amendment updates for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Meeting Adjourned. Motion made by Ray, seconded by Hall at 7:08 PM**

Item #5A

Appointment of new Chair/Vice Chair

- The board is tasked with appointing a new Chair and Vice Chair.
- Votes will be casted by members of the Appearance Commission/Tree Board and voted on and made official by a motion and 2nd.

Item #5B

Appearance Commission/Tree Board Meeting Date Change

- The Appearance Commission/Tree Board has requested to change the meeting time and date of all meetings moving forward.
- The Commission will discuss recommendations for the time change.
- Once a consensus date and time has been gathered, the Commission will vote on the proposed changes to update the new meetings times and make it official with a motion and a 2nd.

Item #5D

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 #5E

Spring Clean-up

- The annual Spring Clean-up is approaching.
- The Commission needs to set a date and time for the proposed event so we can advertise.
- Once a date and time are selected, the Commission will move it into effect with a motion and a 2nd.

Item #5F

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.
- Dates in mind: (Spring: May 6th) (Summer: July 1st) (Fall: September 2nd) (Winter: December 2nd or January 6th)