

Community Improvement Advisory Committee
Aug. 26, 2019
6:00pm
Lowell City Hall

Attendees: Bob Mulholland, Candy Funderburk, Kim Collins, Martha Burris, Michelle Sebastian, Anne Massey, Thomas Gillespie, Christine Hand and Scott Attaway.

Bob called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Bob asked for everyone to review the last meeting's minutes. Martha made a motion to approve the minutes. Anne seconded the motion. Minutes approved.

The CIAC welcomed new volunteer Christine Hand from Riverview.

Old Business

Although Lowell was not awarded one of the CCOC Grants, the CIAC continued discussions regarding beautification projects. The discussions centered around using local artists and possible locations where the projects may be installed. Rankin Park continues to be on the top of the list for improvements. Local artists, including students from Ashbrook High School and Holbrook Middle School, may be involved. Scott shared that some local merchants may be interested in having a mural painted on their building. That prompted the CIAC to discuss possible locations for other murals. The CIAC is in the "fact finding" mode currently. Bob will report back once he finds out more information regarding the cost for pressure washing walls and paint materials.

The plaque to commemorate the historic area in town known as The Flats is getting closer to becoming a reality. Scott share some quotes for a plaque typical of other historic markers, and the group agreed that a 26" by 36" plaque would be reasonable and respectable. Donations are still being accepted for this project and they can be dropped off at City Hall. Thomas will continue working on the organization for this project and having discussions with residents who can provide information about the families to be recognized.

We have all enjoyed the summer flowers in the pots around town, but it is time to change them out with fall/winter plantings. Martha will discuss with the Lowell Women's Club about their interest in continuing to financially support this project. Many thanks to Martha, Anne, Christine and others who will be updating the planters in October.

New Business

GO (Gaston Outside) is sponsoring its second annual "Go Gaston" month in October. It is a celebration of why living in Gaston County is great, and it is a way to unite the community. Each week will have a different theme which will include the following: Business and Economic Development, Restaurant and Retail, Education and Workforce Development, and Culture and Recreation. Restaurants and merchants in Lowell may be sporting green

lights during the week of Oct. 6 – 13 in support of GO Fest. More information on programs, events, and activities can be found at the GO website.

Residents may have noticed “3rd Thursdays” at First St. and Main in town which is an event sponsored by the local merchants. Come out and enjoy the food trucks, music, and good times.

Christine brought up recognizing a “Yard of the Month” as a possible honor for residential/retail locations. This will be up for further discussion.

The CIAC is still considering a name change. Thus far, we are undecided. Discussions will continue. Also, a city motto is also in the brainstorming stages.

The Red Bull Pump Track World Championships (BMX tournament) will host its second US qualifier event at Poston Park the weekend of Sept. 21 – 22. This world class event will bring many visitors to Lowell and the surrounding area. The event will coincide with Gaston’s Bike Fest which is a celebration of bicycling and other outdoor recreation. Included in the Bike Fest will be music, food, bike demos and trail rides. Come out and enjoy the racing and other family friendly activities.

The next CIAC meeting will be Sept. 23 at City Hall. A motion was made and passed to close the meeting.