



**Kings Mountain Main Street Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2020; 8:00am – 9:30am
Joy Performance Center**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Member Jim Champion, Committee Member Jacki Falls, Committee Member David Faunce, Committee Member Erin Jolly, Committee Member Ken Pflieger, and Main Street Coordinator Susan Matheson. Guest: MSAB Nominee Vicki Thompson

CALL TO ORDER: Susan Matheson called the meeting to order at 8:06. The invocation was delivered by Committee Member Ken Pflieger.

APPROVE MINUTES AND AGENDA: Motion from Jim Champion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting. A second was made by David Faunce. All voted in favor.

Motion from Ken Pflieger to approve the Agenda with the addition of discussing the Streetscape Battleground Ave. Project as an Agenda Item. A second from Jim Champion for this motion. All voted in favor.

MSAB BUDGET: There were no comments or questions about the current Main Street budget which was included in the Agenda packet. Susan will find out when next FY Main Street budget is due.

2020 MAIN STREET CONFERENCE:

There will be four people attending the Main Street Conference to represent City of Kings Mountain. MSAB Committee Member Jackie Falls, MSAB Nominee Vicki Thompson, Main Street Coordinator Susan Matheson, and Special Events Director Christy Conner.

ELECTIONS: Election of Board positions were discussed.

CHAIR: A motion was made by Ken Pflieger to nominate Ed Blackburn to fill the MSAB Chair position. A second motion was made by David Faunce. All voted in favor.

VICE CHAIR: A motion was made by Jim Champion to nominate Jackie Falls to fill the MSAB Vice Chair position. A second motion was made by Erin Jolly. All voted in favor.

SECRETARY: It was decided to hold the vote for the Secretary position until all members were present.

REVIEW/APPROVE VACANT POSITION

Vicki Thompson submitted an application for the MSAB. A motion was made by Jim Champion to recommend the application for Vicki Thompson for approval by the City Council. A second motion was made by Ken Pflieger. All voted in favor.

FEEDBACK FROM UNVEILING EVENT

Open discussion from members stated that good feedback had been received from the Unveiling Event and Downtown Building Tour. MSAB will be working on strategic communication/marketing plan to share more about the good things going on in downtown Kings Mountain.

NEW BUSINESSES

Jolly Realty Group, 116 S. Railroad Ave. – Need to Schedule Grand Opening of new location.
Need to schedule Grand Opening for Trackage Wine and Spirits.

STREETSCAPE BATTLEGROUND AVE PROJECT

Each member contributed to open discussion about the upcoming Battleground Ave. Streetscape. All members' present expressed concerns about the trees being a big deterrent for businesses. The trees block views of important and expensive signage. They also block the view of the beauty of the historic buildings. When visitors drive into downtown all that is seen are big green trees. Visitors don't see what businesses are here and the architectural features of the 100 year old historic buildings. Many property owners are spending a great deal of money in renovations and the beauty of each historical building is difficult to fully measure with the trees as the main focus. Business owners have many expenses associated with running a storefront business and need as much as exposure as possible. Trees in the downtown are important and we would like to have trees and greenery; however, they should be strategically placed and the type of tree should be carefully selected. For every tree removed a tree should be planted in the Downtown or in the City of Kings Mountain. Trees should be strategically located for example in bump outs. Trees should not be the focal point of the Downtown view, Streetscape (which includes trees/greenery/landscape) is meant to enhance the aesthetic beauty of the buildings and creating a welcoming, open, and safe environment. The buildings are the draw, they are the hidden gem of our downtown district. It is also pointed out that lighting is also poorly placed and shines in pedestrian's eyes while walking. There is a known incident where a visitor fell at night. The visitor said they could not see due to the lighting shining into their eyes, they miss-stepped and received an injury after falling. It is expressed in open discussion by multiple members of the board that expert consultants who work on downtown streetscapes should be utilized so that our downtown is a well thought out long term enjoyable place to patronize, walk through, and experience. This takes intentionality, strategic planning, experience, and knowledge of successful downtown streetscapes. After some intense discussions, all of the thoughts expressed were translated into a recommendation made by Ken Pflieger as follows:

STREETSCAPE RECOMMENDATION:

The Main Street Advisory Board recommends that a qualified Design Firm be utilized to assess both the trees and lighting (also known as rhythm and cadence) for the Streetscape Battleground Ave Project because the existing trees are encroaching and are inappropriate for the downtown buildings, business exposure, and visibility and are a safety issue. The MSAB would like to approve the final version to ensure it integrates with Strategy 1 and 2 of the Main Street Work Plan. A motion for this recommendation was made by Jim Champion. A second motion was made by Jackie Falls. All voted in favor of this recommendation.

MAIN STREET WORKPLAN

This discussion was held until the next meeting due to time restraints.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Ken Pflieger. Second by David Faunce. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

Submitted by: Susan Matheson, Main Street Program Coordinator