A Note from the Chair

In 2015, the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) was very active in the community through its review of designs for publicly-funded building projects and its continued support of Community Roots Day. The Commission also continued its educational seminar series with three free seminars being held during the year.

The Commission spent much of the year focusing its attention on the review of numerous public projects that will have an enormous impact on the appearance of the community and the quality of life of our residents, including the new Forsyth County Central Library, the renovations to the Benton Convention Center, and plans for the new Quarry and Jamison Parks.

Members also began to plan for the 2016 Community Appearance Awards to be held in June 2016. The date, venue, and keynote speaker were arranged in 2015. The call for nominations was held in the fall with 23 nominations being submitted by the public.

We appreciate the support of our elected officials and the Planning Board. We look forward to a productive year of working to maintain and improve our community’s appearance. Commission members welcome suggestions on programs that we can undertake to better serve the community.

Wendi Hartup, Chair

Trees and Woodlands Committee

On a beautiful October 24, 2015, the Community Appearance Commission, the Winston-Salem Vegetation Management Department, and Keep Winston-Salem Beautiful held Community Roots Day along the newly completed Clemmons-ville Road corridor between Peters Creek Parkway and Main Street. This year marked the 23rd anniversary of the event that began in 1993 in the Boston-Thurmond neighborhood.

Volunteers planted approximately 250 trees along the corridor during the event. Eleven different varieties of trees were planted including Forest Pansy, “Hearts of Gold” Redbud, Fruitless Sweetgum, Black Gum, and Armstrong Maple. As trees were not permitted in the traffic circles at Peters Creek Parkway, volunteers planted Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Limelight Hydrangea, Liriope and Pink Muhly Grass in the three areas. Since the inaugural event, over 7,500 trees have been planted throughout the City of Winston-Salem in neighborhoods such as Easton, East Winston, Hanes Hosiery, Sunnyside, Happy Hill, and Castle Heights.

Winston-Salem Mayor Allen Joines and City Council Members Molly Leight and James Taylor Jr. welcomed the crowd of volunteers during the opening ceremony. Winston-Salem City Manager Lee Garrity and Assistant City Manager Ben Rowe were also in attendance at the event. Associate Minister Clayton Reid of the Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Volunteers were treated to coffee, donuts, and fruit in the morning and a hotdog lunch in the afternoon. Hats and t-shirts were presented to the volunteers. The event is made possible through grant funds and donations.
TAPR Committee
During 2015, the Technical Advisory and Project Review (TAPR) Committee was busy reviewing a number high profile public projects including the new Forsyth County Central Library, the renovations to the Benton Convention Center, the three new district police stations, and plans for the new Jamison and Quarry Parks. In total, the TAPR reviewed fifteen publicly funded projects over the course of the year with a total of twelve projects being reviewed between August and October 2015. This was a 650% increase in projects reviewed compared to 2014. The increase in reviews was due to the recent City bond package that was approved by the public in 2014.

Education and Awards Committee
The Education and Awards Committee began planning the 2016 Community Appearance Awards in the summer of 2015. The Committee set the date of the event for Wednesday, June 8, 2016 and secured the Gray Auditorium at the Old Salem Visitor Center at no cost. A call for nominations was sent out in the fall with 23 nominations being submitted by the public. Furthermore, the Committee arranged to have Dr. Katherine Loflin, an internationally recognized and award-winning consultant and speaker on place making, be the keynote speaker for the event.

In addition to planning the upcoming Awards program, the Committee sponsored three educational seminars: Hardscapes in the Landscape, Fall Lawn Maintenance, and Fall Container Gardening.