

**Town of Montreat  
Board of Commissioners  
Town Council Meeting – Public Forum  
May 10, 2018  
Walkup Building**

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Board members present: Mayor Tim Helms  
Mayor Pro Tem Kent Otto  
Commissioner Kitty Fouche  
Commissioner Bill Gilliland  
Commissioner Alice Lentz  
Commissioner Tom Widmer

Board members absent: None

Town staff present: Alex Carmichael, Town Administrator  
Angie Murphy, Town Clerk

Approximately 15 members of the public were also present. Mayor Helms called the Public Forum to order at 6:30 p.m., and held a moment of silence.

**Agenda Approval**

Commissioner Widmer moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Gilliland seconded and the motion carried 5/0.

**Public Forum**

Mr. Bill Seaman of 425 Appalachian Way spoke on behalf of the Montreat Landcare Committee. Mr. Seaman gave a brief presentation about the new brochure entitled “Montreat Outdoors: A Guide and Map to Some Special Places”. Mr. Seaman also spoke about new youth and children educational opportunities which will take place here in Montreat. The North Carolina Arboretum has installed an eco-explorer hot spot at the Nature Center. This program benefits children from kindergarten through the eighth grade and the children are motivated by small prizes. Also the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is locating a Kids in Parks Track Trails here in Montreat. Mr. Seaman stated that he feels that Montreat Landcare serves as a Chamber of Commerce for the community.

Mrs. Mary Standaert of 118 Shenandoah Terrace provided a brief update about the Black Mountain/Montreat addressing issue. Mrs. Standaert recapped her correspondence from January up to present time for the Commissioners. Mr. Nathan Pennington of the Buncombe County Planning and Development confirmed that 911 lists Montreat residents as Montreat. Mrs. Standaert is encouraged that the Board of Elections has changed the voting location to Black Mountain which gets residents away from the error in voting location. Mrs. Standaert also shared an email which states that the US Postal Service is not privy to any street addresses that are in the Town of Montreat. Mrs. Standaert feels that this is pivotal information because for so long the

Post Office has taken the blame for the addressing confusion.

Mrs. Nan Clarke of 558 Providence Terrace thanked Montreat Landcare for all their hard work on the new brochure.

Mrs. Clare Frist of 98 Frist Road asked what the next steps are in the addressing situation. Mrs. Standaert stated that she feels that hearing that it is not a postal issue is a huge accomplishment. Mrs. Standaert has also submitted this information to the Board of Elections.

Mrs. Martha Campbell of 149 Maryland Place stated that the group saw this evening why Mr. Bill Seaman was awarded the 2018 Service and Leadership Award from the Landcare Committee. The Montreat Landcare Committee will soon be looking at opportunities for creek health. Mrs. Campbell also mentioned that information is forthcoming from Nancy Midgett about the new firewise initiative.

Ms. Sara Baughman of Montreat College provided a few updates to the Commission. Ms. Baughman stated that Montreat College's Commencement Ceremony would be held the following Saturday at 2:00 p.m. Ms. Baughman stated that the College has been working diligently on a parking plan for the next academic year. At the end of June the College will be hosting a week long cyberpatriot camp for rising 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. The faculty will use a curriculum from the Air Force,

Commissioner Lentz stated that she had a recent house guest who was familiar with the native hellbender and she is excited that the Landcare Committee will focus on creek health.

Commissioner Otto thanked Mr. Seaman for his work with the Landcare Committee. Commissioner Otto thanked Mrs. Standaert for her work on the addressing issue and stated that he had reached out to Google with no avail.

Mayor Helms advised Mrs. Standaert that he took the opportunity to correct his address at the recent voting polls.

### **Adjournment**

Commissioner Gilliland moved to adjourn the Public Forum. Mayor Pro Tem Otto seconded and the meeting was adjourned 5/0.

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Tim Helms, Mayor

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Angie Murphy, Town Clerk