

Homewood Beautification Board

Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2026

Members Present:

Nancy Mason, Laura Stansell, Lauren Walton, Nancy Walburn, Lindsey Culver, Sam Bokatzian, Mary Michael Kelley, Mary-Kate Carey, Angela McKinney, Victoria Dinges

Also Present:

Randy Hamby (Public Works Representative)

Chris Lane (City Council Liaison)

Shay Gartman (Director, Homewood Chamber of Commerce)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, and attendees were welcomed.

2. Administrative Updates

The Chair provided a summary of the recent City board chair training.

- Boards will now have both a City Council liaison and a City staff liaison.
- Guidance was provided on agendas, minutes, and Robert's Rules of Order.
- Virtual attendance may be allowed, but virtual participants may not be counted as voting members (pending clarification).
- The City will begin phased updates to board bylaws.
- Discrepancies between posted and distributed bylaws were noted and will be clarified.
- Board roster updates are forthcoming.

3. Old Business

A. Funding, Donations, and Budget

The Board discussed fundraising limitations and procedures.

- Uncertainty remains regarding acceptance of monetary donations.
- In-kind donations (e.g., plants from Lowe's) have been successfully used in prior events.
- Further clarification will be sought from City legal counsel.

Budget Update:

- Current budget: \$10,000
- Approximate spending to date: \$525 (~5%)
- Pending expenses (e.g., shared bags) have not yet posted
- Clarified shared bag expense: approximately \$1,600

4. New Business

A. Holiday Decorations & Lighting

The Board agreed that holiday lighting and decorations should be a priority project.

- Interest in replacing existing snowflake decorations with improved designs
- Consideration of examples from other cities (e.g., Gardendale)
- Expansion of lighting into additional corridors, including Highway 31, Green Springs, and key intersections
- Challenges include: limited power access, infrastructure constraints, and state approval requirements (for Highway 31)

Subcommittee Update:

Members: Ron, Nancy, Mary-Kate, Catherine, Neil, Laura Stansell, Lauren Walton

- A map of potential locations has been created
- Members are counting poles and intersections
- Data will be reviewed with Public Works to confirm power availability

Timeline Goals:

- May: estimated quantities
- June: finalize plan and priorities
- July: deadline for identifying power needs

B. Centennial Committee Update

- ~44 centennial banners to be installed citywide
- Potential alternating with Beautification banners
- June: Author event at the library
- October 15: Centennial Gala (benefiting Miss Sims Garden)
- October 17: Citywide park and picnic festival
- October 29: Time capsule event
- Additional programming includes documentaries and historical features

C. We Love Homewood Day (May 2)

- The Board will again distribute plants at its booth
- Potential donors: Sweet Peas and Lowe's
- Native plants preferred if available
- Seed packets may also be included

Logistics:

- Tent and table setup confirmed
- Additional tent available if needed
- Volunteer shifts to be organized via SignUpGenius
- Booth purpose: increase public awareness, engage residents, and collect contact information for future outreach

D. Earth Day Cleanup (April 25)

- Scheduled from 9:00–11:00 a.m. near Homewood High School
- Board members encouraged to participate
- Existing tools (grabbers) available
- No separate Beautification Board table required

E. Beautification Awards

The Board discussed enhancing recognition by providing recipients with a permanent award item.

F. Holiday Tree Program

- Concerns noted regarding logistics and execution
- Program benefits student scholarships
- No action taken; may revisit in future

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and approved.

Adjourned at: 12:55 PM

Next Meeting: Second Monday in May (anticipated May 11, 2026)