

Homewood Beautification Board

September 2026 Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2026 | 12:00 p.m.

Central Park Parks and Recreation Building Meeting Room

Members Present

Mary Michael Kelley, Angela McKinney, Chris Lane, Mary-Kate Carey, Victoria Dinges, Nancy Mason, Shay Gartman, Nancy Walburn, Lindsey Culver, Samuel Bokatzian, and Randy Hambley

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. The chair welcomed guest Wayne Harris, a West Homewood resident and Edgewood property owner.

Approval of the August 2026 Minutes

The August 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.

Old Business

Holiday Decorations and Lighting

Members discussed developing a cohesive holiday lighting plan throughout Homewood. Adam Thrower, owner of a building at 186 Oxmoor Road, had expressed interest in coordinating lighting along Oxmoor Road in West Homewood and encouraging neighboring property owners to participate. He was invited to the meeting but did not attend.

The budget was reported as \$55,000. Members discussed a proposed \$45,000 beautification allocation and an additional \$10,000 potentially designated for West Homewood lighting. These amounts were not confirmed as approved. Members sought clarification on whether the additional funds would be restricted to West Homewood.

The current fiscal year's funds were reported as spent or allocated. A final city budget decision was expected near the end of September. Members were encouraged to attend city budget presentations and hearings.

Major lighting decisions were deferred until budget information becomes available, with holiday lighting planned as a focus of the October meeting. Members also discussed smaller interim purchases using any remaining funds from the banner allocation,

including light balls for downtown trees. Electrical access, installation, coordination with merchants, and city right-of-way requirements would need review.

Members interested in holiday lighting were asked to begin brainstorming between meetings and coordinate potential locations, costs, and proposals.

Centennial Committee

The gala committee indicated that volunteer time would be more helpful than a financial contribution from the board. Setup volunteers are needed Wednesday, October 14, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Street Banners

Shay presented a banner mock-up. Longer fiberglass rods can be used with existing brackets, avoiding the cost of replacing all mounting hardware. The plan covers 44 banners on existing poles and requires 88 rods.

The quoted cost for 44 banners was \$2,728. Randy's rod estimate, including shipping, was \$793.91, for a combined estimated cost of \$3,521.91. Members noted that the previously approved authorization not to exceed \$5,000 remained sufficient; no new spending vote was needed.

Shay stated that she would place the banner order. Installation was discussed for November 1. Rod ordering and payment will be coordinated with city finance staff. Display Star was identified as the rod supplier. Members also requested follow-up on the status of a previously submitted Christmas tree order.

New Business

Members discussed a City Council ordinance concerning the board's membership and appointment language following changes in city government. Kale's clarification was relayed that the measure involved cleaning up language in older resolutions. No definitive new membership structure was established during the meeting.

Because October 12 falls during school fall break, members agreed to plan the next meeting for October 19. The chair will be out of town, so meeting leadership will need coordination.

Standing Items

HEC Collaboration and Updates

Scott Rezac is no longer serving as the Homewood Environmental Commission liaison. The chair will follow up with the commission regarding a replacement liaison and any planned fall cleanup so the board can coordinate participation.

Treasurer's Report

Sam Bokatzian announced that he would not be renewing his term. Members thanked him for his years of service as Treasurer. The resulting treasurer opening will be discussed at a future meeting.

Social Media and Promotion

Members discussed the need for improved publicity for community events. A board photograph was planned at the close of the meeting.

Events and Collaborations

Fall cleanup plans will be confirmed with the Environmental Commission. Centennial gala volunteer arrangements are described under Old Business.

Community Support

No separate report was recorded.

Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.