

Homewood Beautification Board

October Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2025

Members and Guests Present: Mary Michael Kelley, Lindsey Culver, Nancy Mason, Victoria Dinges, Nancy Walburn, Mary-Kate Carey, Angela McKinney, Roxanne Batson, Nick Sims, Lauren Walton, Sam Bokatzian, Karen McClure, via Zoom: Ron McCurdle, Laura Stansell

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Mary Michael Kelley.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 2025. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

The meeting began with Mary Michael introducing new Board member Karen McClure, Ward 4, to each Board member, noting the upcoming changes due to city restructuring.

The Board discussed the successful Otey's Fall Beautification Award presentation, noting the Award was placed in a strategic location.

Mary Michael thanked Board members who helped with the Creek Cleanup event and said that LMA will update the Board on the draft of the City Beautification Plan at the November meeting.

Mary Michael passed out new HBB t-shirts with the new Homewood Beautification Board logo and thanked Roxanne Batson for her help in coordinating with the local vendor.

Mary Michael updated the Board about the plan to partner with Homewood Environmental Commission (HEC) in their purchase of new reusable tote bags. The plan is for new bags to be ordered closer to the end of the year for use in 2026 (they are finishing distribution of remaining bags in stock before ordering more).

For the HEC "We Love Your Trees" event, Mary Michael said we would not be manning an HBB table, but encouraged Board members to attend the event at Patriot Park.

New Business:

City Updates—Nick Sims

Nick said that the Council had passed its new fiscal year budget, including a line item for a Holiday ornament package for which the HBB will not be responsible. Nick confirmed that the HBB budget will be \$10,000.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Sam said that he should be copied on any purchase made on the HBB's behalf.

Social Media and Website: Lindsey will speak with Brian Wallace about updating the HBB website.

Events/Collabs: The Menorah Lighting Event will be on December 18th in front of the Trak Shak, with activities beginning around 5:00 p.m.

HEC "Love Your Trees" tree giveaway will be November 8 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Patriot Park. The HEC will be giving away one native tree per Homewood residence with the owner registering in advance. Varieties of trees will include oaks, black gums, and hawthornes, as well as understory trees such as redbuds, sweet bays, and river birches.

Community Support: The Streets Team has the HBB calendar.

The Board voted unanimously to create a standing Holiday Decoration Committee, which will need volunteers. Lauren Walton volunteered for this committee. HBB is responsible for decorating the indoor holiday decorations at City Hall. Victoria, Sam, and Lauren volunteered to clean out the existing decorations at City Hall and to replenish holiday decorations with a budget of \$500. The Board agreed to decorate the City Hall trees after its November 10, 2025, meeting.

Lindsey Culver was appointed to serve as HBB's representative on Homewood's Centennial Committee for 2026, for which funds have already been allocated. There was interest in creating a "Centennial" banner for street poles, and Mary Michael said that Centennial pole banners would likely be a coordinated effort involving the HBB and the Centennial Committee.

The current banner schedule was discussed with Samford University's banner being displayed until after Parents' Weekend, followed by the red, white, and blue banners until October 31, the Snow Globe banners from November 1- March 1, followed by the Homewood Park spring banner.

Nancy Walburn suggested that the Board should order larger banners. Mary Michael said she would check the inventory for each banner and ask Randy if the hardware could be moved on their poles to accommodate larger banners. If they are not moveable, the banners would be ordered in the current size as needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.