

Homewood Beautification Board
August 2025 Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2025

Members and Guests Present: Mary Michael Kelley, Lindsey Culver, Nancy Mason, Laura Stansell, Shay Gartman, (Chamber of Commerce), Victoria Dinges, Nancy Walburn, Mary-Kate Carey, Angela McKinney, Roxanne Batson, Eric McNair (LMA), Kathryn Romanchuk. Via Zoom: Sam Bokatzian, Ron McCurdle, Scott Rezek, (HEC Liaison)

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 June and July 2025. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

The meeting began with introductions and updates on the wards of board members, noting upcoming changes due to city restructuring. A vacancy in Ward 3 was discussed, with applications being accepted for Ben Booth's former position. Nick, unable to attend, shared an update about a planned creek cleanup collaboration with Friends of Shades Creek, and Nancy Walburn volunteered to coordinate the board's involvement by reaching out to Michelle Blackwood.

Mary discussed sending the Board color options for a logo refresh and mentioned using BCC for emails to reduce clutter. Scott Rezek (HEC liaison) provided an update on new tote bags, which he will present at the next meeting. Laura Stansell said she was planning a breakfast or basket delivery for the street team in the coming weeks.

New Business:

Banner Schedule: Mary and the team discussed the schedule for changing banners in Homewood with Samford banners up from early August to mid-September; Red, White, and Blue banners up from mid-September to early November, Winter Snow Globe banners up from early November to early March, and Spring in Central Park banners up from early March to late July. Mary asked Kathryn Romanchuk to create a calendar with these dates and email it to the team. They also briefly discussed adding fireworks-themed banners for next year.

City Beautification Plan Progress Update

Eric McNair reported progress on a comprehensive city-wide landscape and site strategy, which is under development. The plan incorporates information from previous master plans and details from smaller projects like parks and monuments. LMA aims to complete a draft by early September for internal review and public input. Mary emphasized the need for a unified approach to city projects, sharing public frustration about recent uncoordinated initiatives that were not properly communicated, and stressed the importance of involving the city manager and council in future planning processes.

Homewood Boards Coordination and Planning

Mary shared that any changes related to city board structures and bylaws will be overseen by the City Manager and City Attorney. She shared that they hope to have drafts of the updated documents in early Fall.

Fall Beautification and Meeting Updates

The group discussed the need for the group to bring fall quarterly award nominations to the September meeting. The Board was asked to especially look in the Edgewood area for nominees. Nancy Mason will speak with Amy Weiss about holding a beautification board meeting at Sims Garden in October. In addition, Mary proposed to skip both July and December meetings moving forward as standard practice due to vacations and holiday schedules, which was agreed upon by the group.

Open Discussions/Questions

The proposal for a pocket park and steakhouse at the former Homewood Police Headquarters has been rescinded.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm

The next meeting of the Homewood Beautification Board will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 12:00 pm in the Conference Room at the Central Park Parks & Rec Offices.