

Homewood Beautification Board

September Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2025

Members and Guests present: Mary Michael Kelley, Angela McKinney, Victoria Dinges, Mary-Kate Carey, Nancy Mason, Nick Sims (Council Liaison), Shay Gartman (Chamber of Commerce), Roxanne Batson, Lindsey Culver, Scott Rezek (HEC Liaison). Via Zoom: Laura Stansell, Lauren Walton.

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 August 2025 minutes. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

Old Business

There is currently a vacancy in Ward 4 until September 29 with one applicant.

Mary Michael presented various color and font options for the new HBB logo and the pink design was unanimously approved. She will work with the designer on producing the logo on HBB merchandise.

The Board discussed ordering merchandise for upcoming events, including t-shirts and tote bags. Scott Rezek passed around an innovative canvas tote bag that can be produced in partnership with the HEC for \$6 each. The group agreed to move forward with the bag design, with plans to discuss logo placement at the next meeting.

As the fiscal year ends October 1st, Mary Michael said that t-shirts must be ordered soon. She plans to reach out to Kellie (HWD City) for the remaining HBB budget amount and may have to rush some orders.

The group discussed updating Christmas decorations, focusing on outdoor ornaments and lighting. Shay Gartman said that the Chamber has paid for holiday lighting in the past, ordering from Jimmy Alexander of "Downtown Decorations Inc." a vendor who specializes in municipal decorations.

Mary Michael discussed the budget for holiday decorations, noting that previous expenses included a \$36,000 invoice from 2018 for items like trees, ornament packages and 28 wreaths. Mary Michael expressed concern about the high cost, particularly for ornament packages. Laura pointed out the need to replace worn wreaths throughout the city, confirming that these were originally purchased with HBB funds.

Mary proposed forming a Standing Holiday Committee to assess and plan holiday decorations for upcoming years, including an inventory of current decorations and budget planning. Mary-Kate volunteered to be part of the committee, and Laura shared insights about previous decoration orders and timelines. The group discussed reviewing other cities' decorations for inspiration and making changes to items that were not well-received.

The group discussed what potential new decorations were needed and discussed including those expenses in the traffic engineering budget or as an administrative line item since they are considered capital expenses.

Mary thanked Laura for delivering appreciation baskets to the Streets Team for their hard work on HBB's behalf.

Since LMA will make its presentation at the October meeting, Mary Michael asked Nancy Mason to reschedule the planned meeting at Miss Sims Garden until the spring. Mary Michael reminded everyone of the Garden's upcoming pumpkin and mum sale.

New Business

Nick Sims discussed the city's budget hearings, which began with a presentation by the city manager in late August. The Finance Committee is facilitating these hearings, with the first focusing on public safety and the second on library and engineering.

Mary Michael mentioned ongoing concerns about park maintenance, citing Overton Park, and highlighted the need for consistent maintenance across all parks.

Mary Michael discussed the need to update the HBB website with our new Board members and include our involvement in upcoming Homewood events. HBB members voted on their preferred date option for the Menorah Lighting, and chose December 18 first and December 16 second. The group agreed to participate with the HEC in the Creek Cleanup on September 27 as well as its "2025 4th Annual Love Your Trees Day" which will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on November 8 at Patriot Park.

Katherine Romanchuk gave The Streets Team the HBB calendar for changing out banners, and on September 15, the Team will switch to the red, white and blue one.

HBB members agreed to recognize Otey's Tavern in Edgewood for the HBB Award for fall 2025.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.