

KEEP SMYRNA BEAUTIFUL Minutes - Final



Laura Zhiss (Mayor's Appointee)
Shawn Garcia (Ward 1)
Lisa Castleberry (Ward 2)
Matt Anderson (Ward 3)
Dawn McLoughlin (Ward 4)
Maggie McGarity, Treasurer (Ward 5)
Nell Robinson (Ward 6)
Larry Powell (Ward 7)
Casey Chaviano (At Large)
Trevour Kelleher, Secretary (At Large)
Chris Knight (At Large)
Regina McEwen (At Large)
Phyllis Owens, Board Chairperson (At Large)
Lori Whitaker-Noel (At Large)
Stephanie Williams (At Large)
Olivia Wise (At Large)

Smyrna Community Center
Jonquil Room
1250 Powder Springs Street
Smyrna, GA 30080

City Attorney Scott Cochran
City Administrator Joseph Bennett
City Clerk Heather K. Peacon-Corn

April 08, 2025 / 6:30 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: 13 – Shawn Garcia, Lisa Castleberry, Matt Anderson, Dawn McLoughlin, Maggie McGarity, Nell Robinson, Casey Chaviano, Trevour Kelleher, Chris Knight, Phyllis Owens, Lori Whitaker-Noel, Olivia Wise, Stephanie Williams
Absent: 3 – Laura Zhiss, Larry Powell, Regina McEwen
Staff: 1 – Julie Barwig

2. Call to Order

2025-132 Welcome / Call to Order – *Phyllis*

The April 8, 2025 Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board meeting held at the Smyrna Community Center in the Jonquil Room was called to order at 6:31 PM.

3. Chairperson Instruction and Comment

4. Formal Business

A. **2025-134** Chairman's Report – *Phyllis*

- New Board member welcome to Lori Whitaker-Noel and Casey Chaviano
- Board membership: Shawn moved seconded by Lori for Liv and Chris to be re-elected to the Board. Motion passed
- Call for nominating committee of 2 people to review slate for officer roles for election in May meeting. Liv and Shawn volunteered. Phyllis shared that she will not stand for re-election to the Chair position and thanked everyone for their support during her tenure of nearly 3 years.

- November meeting shift to November 18 instead of November 3 due to the Veterans' Day holiday.
- Phyllis shared an update that city budget is expected to be tight and perhaps cuts, so we may need to have discussion in coming months about funding additional staff resources. Julie has requested additional headcount in this context.

B. 2025-136 Finance – Maggie

Maggie presented the March actual vs budget financials. Maggie is working on additional graphics to monitor budget vs actual performance. Filed for Audit.

C. 2025-138 Old Business – Phyllis

- Garden Tour: Phyllis updated on progress readying for May 3. Reminder to thank our sponsors when visiting their businesses and for the Board to sign up for volunteering and providing food. Liv and Shawn following up with KSU about consigning plants for the plant sale. Expect to have a Board and volunteer tour Sunday afternoon - TBD logistics.
- Volunteer Picnic is this Saturday April 12 at Tolleson Park. Approximately 80 attendees. Please bring food and drinks anytime 9:00-1030 am to setup before the event starts at 11:00 am.

D. 2025-140 New Business – Phyllis

- Phyllis shared about podcast by Jennifer Lawson, Chair of KAB.
- Organizational Capacity discussion introduced by Julie about challenges and proposed changes to manage within available resource capacity.
 - Julie shared which decisions she has made for staff and which require Board discussion.
 - Liv moved, Lisa seconded to eliminate environmental studies scholarships. Motion did not pass and will be readdressed in May meeting

E. 2025-178 Staff Reports – Julie & Eloise

COORDINATOR'S REPORT: Julie presented the report on Eloise's behalf.

- Document Shredding: donations covered most of event costs.
- Habitat rehabilitation
- Education & Outreach: 13 events reached 517 people
- Board members tabled at Kidcon and Community Engagement fair

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

- Keep Cobb Beautiful Update: Trevour shared upcoming events. KCB.com The March 29 community cleanup in District 4 huge turnout driven by KSU students with 430 volunteers cleaning along the E-W connector.

April

- 4 – Green Acres Elementary Career Day
- 10 – Welcome to South Cobb Festival
- 12 – Community Recycling Event (Miller Park)
- 19 - Welcome to South Cobb event in Powder Springs
- 26 – Medication Disposal Event
- 30 – Sustainability Expo and Awards Banquet (Attendance request form [here](#))

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Julie

- KSB Hands On page: https://x.gldn.io/e/Keep_Smyrna_Beautiful
- Community Events for 2025
 - January 18: Adopt-a-Mile
 - February 21: Arbor Day (Ceremonial Tree Planting)
 - March 22: Document Shredding
 - April 12: Adopt-a-Mile and Volunteer Picnic
 - April 26 & 27: Jonquil Festival
 - May 3: Garden Tour (Board hold May 4 for group tour together)
 - June 7: Litter-Free Event
 - July 12: Litter-Free Event
 - July 19: Adopt-a-Mile
 - September 20: Document Shredding
 - October 4: Litter-Free Event
 - October 18: Adopt-a-Mile
 - October 25 & 26: Crafts & Drafts Festival
 - November 15: America Recycles Day & Eco-Kids Festival
 - December 13: Winter Cleanup

5. Approval of Minutes

A. MIN2025-049 Approval of the March 11, 2025 Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board Meeting Minutes.

Board Member Olivia Wise made a motion to approve item MIN2025-049; seconded by Board Member Shawn Garcia.

The motion to approve carried with the following vote:

- Aye:** 13 – Board Member Garcia, Board Member Castleberry, Board Member Anderson, Board Member McLoughlin, Board Member McGarity, Board Member Robinson, Board Member Chaviano, Board Member Kelleher, Board Member Knight, Board Member Owens, Board Member Whitaker-Noel, Board Member Wise
- Nay:** 0 – None
- Absent:** 3 – Board Member Zhiss, Board Member Powell, Board Member McEwen

6. Other Business / Staff Comment

- A. 2025-142 · Community Cleanups: April 12th & 23rd. May 14th, June 23rd**
- Monthly Recycling Center Tours: April 25th, May
 - Habitat Rehabilitation: April 17th, May 24th, June 27th
 - Garden Workday, Hawthorne Education Center: April 15th, May 6th
 - Great American Cleanup/Volunteer Picnic: April 12th
 - Garden Tour: May 3rd

7. Adjournment

The April 8, 2025 Keep Smyrna Beautiful Board meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.