

**MINUTES**  
**KEEP SMYRNA BEAUTIFUL**  
**March 12, 2024**  
Prepared by Trevour Kelleher



Attendees: Phyllis Owens, Julie Barwig, Shawn Garcia, Hilary Scott, Eloise Holland, Trevour Kelleher, Maggie McGarity, Dawn McLaughlin, Chris Knight, Matt Anderson, Olivia Wise, Lisa Castleberry, Larry Powell

Visitors: Jaden Whitley from BSA Troop1 joining to learn civics for badge, Stephanie Williamson (prospective Board member)

**Absent:** Nell Robinson

**Call to Order: 18:30/6:30PM**

**CHAIR'S REPORT:** (Phyllis)

- Vice chair nomination: Dawn expressed interest to Nominating Committee. Shawn moved for Dawn to be vice-chair seconded by Lisa. Board approved.
- Stephanie Williamson nominated to be member at large by Shawn seconded by Liv. Board approved.
- One at large and Mayors appointee remain vacant.
- Strategic Planning Recap. Thanks for taking time on Sunday. Executive Committee taking next steps to incorporate feedback to revise goals. Reminder of importance of prioritization to ensure the stretched staff capacity is best utilized.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Trevour shared February minutes for approval. Liv made motion to approve with Shawn seconding. Minutes approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Maggie presented February financials. Julie responded to question by Liv about outlook for recycling center volatility; relatively stable from past few months perspective. Filed for Audit.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Garden Tour (May 4): Fewer sponsors but larger amounts per sponsor. Shawn requested to donate plants for plant sale by contacting him directly. Each Board member to bring food item for Tea Room. Phyllis requesting contacts for stone mason that may have sink cutouts to be engraved for gardens showing on tour. Hilary suggested to contact Habitat for Humanity store.
- Smyrna Market Participation: reminder we plan cover at least one weekend per month. Julie confirmed we can get slot. —> Staff will bring signup sheet next meeting.
- 40th Anniversary: —> Eloise will share timeline for commas and events planned to celebrate our Anniversary. TShirts are ordered.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Volunteer Appreciation Picnic: April 20 scheduled at Tolleson Park. Julie and Eloise building detailed agenda and the awards to celebrate our amazing volunteers.
- Keep Georgia Beautiful Conference: Held in Jekyll Island on May 7-9. Eloise plans to attend. There is budget for two Board members to attend.

**COORDINATOR'S REPORT:** Eloise presented her report to the Board

- Arbor Day and Adopt a Tree. 3 council members attended the tree planting. KSB gave away 199 trees YTD.
- Recycling Center Tours: First tour yesterday with 11 scheduled in March and April.
- 40th Anniversary web site is live. Spring appeal will focus on \$40 donation for our 40th from all Smyrna residents. Larry offering his videography expertise to assist the communications.

- Volunteer appreciation event: Follows adopt a mile community cleanup (our Great American Cleanup). Eloise asks Board members to bring food for snacks. Please advise Eloise who can help the cleanup event that day. Expect 60-100 attendees.
- Upcoming Events
- List from Eloise report....

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Garden Tour Committee:** Covered in Old Business section
2. **Education Committee:** Proposal will be brought next meeting about revisions to grant guidelines.
3. **Pollinator Garden Committee:** Liv provided update. Chris meeting with master gardeners for design and maintenance suggestions. Julie had productive conversation with Feed and Seed owner and his interest in supporting the project.
4. **Audit:** No updates pending next quarter's audit to happen after Garden Tour. Completed July - November in December.
5. **Fundraising and Grant Committee:** Liv, Maggie and Trevour each exploring 3 grants for us to pursue in next year.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Julie presented KAB Conference recap

Keynote about pollinators from Doug Tallomee. Great information for our pollinator garden efforts. Informative description of value of oak trees to ecosystem that can be in our adopt a tree and tree education communications. He advocates more native and natural lawns rather than the 44million acres with monoculture lawn today. People can register their lawns online as citizen science to record biodiversity. Litter cleanup and the unhoused was a topic Julie suggests we explore to establish a policy; not frequent in Smyrna but occurs occasionally.

Liv shared about fundraising breakout sessions. Key to consider personal relationship connectors. How might we facilitate more networking?

There was an app highlighted that could identify trash and recycling and advise how to dispose. This can also identify source supplier or manufacturer. <https://www.rubbish.love>

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm / 19:29**