

A G E N D A

A regular meeting of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee to be held on ***Thursday, February 6, 2025*** at ***4:30 p.m.*** in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members: Madeline Bracken, Chairman
Brent Gundert, Vice Chairman
Polly Williams
Jesse Gibson
Julie Mendenhall
Forrest John
Andrew Weyand

Ex-Officio: Kevin Strength, Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce

1. Call to Order
2. ***Public Comments:*** Persons may address the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee on any issues. This is the appropriate time for citizens to address the Committee on any concern whether on this agenda or not. In accordance with the State of Texas Open Meetings Act, the Committee may not comment or deliberate such statements during this period, except as authorized by Section 551.042, Texas Government Code.
3. Consider approval of Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of December 5, 2024
4. Hear presentation from Horticulturist Chris Seale
5. Discuss and consider Ellis County Master Gardeners booth
6. Discuss and consider Spring Litter Cleanup dates
7. Discuss and consider Keep Texas Beautiful Conference May 5-7 in Austin, Texas
8. Discuss and consider guidelines for the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Program
9. Discuss and consider next PIN Award recipient
10. Discuss, review, and consider upcoming grant opportunities
11. Hear update and discuss Cleanup Closet
12. Adjourn

The Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee reserves the right to go into Executive Session as authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from legal counsel on any agenda item listed herein. This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. Parking for mobility-impaired persons is available. Any request for sign interpretive services must be made forty-eight hours ahead of the meeting. To make arrangements, call the City Secretary at 469-309-4006 or (TDD) 1-800-RELAY TX

Notice of Potential Quorum

One or more members of the Waxahachie City Council may be present at this meeting.

No action will be taken by the City Council at this meeting.

A regular meeting of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Madeline Bracken, Chairman
Brent Gundert, Vice Chairman
Polly Williams
Forrest John
Andrew Weyand

Members Absent: Jesse Gibson
Julie Mendenhall

Others Present: Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brad Barnes, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Christopher Gravis, Acting Administrative Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Madeline Bracken called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider approval of Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of October 3, 2024

Forrest John asked that an amendment be made to the October 3, 2024 minutes concerning the absence of Ex-officio Kevin Strength and Council representative Travis Smith. He also asked that the Page 3 Draft Scoring Sheet be included in the previous minutes.

Action:

Polly Williams moved to approve the minutes of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting of October 3, 2024 with presented amendments. Motion was seconded by Brent Gundert and carried unanimously (5-0).

4. Hear “Year in Review” presentation

The item was presented by Chairman Bracken via PowerPoint. She noted the PowerPoint was presented to City Council on November 18, 2024 and provided an overview of the following:

- Community-wide cleanups
- Total trash removed
- Texas Arbor Day
- Financial stewardship
- Dumpster Days

Ms. Bracken asked to add the Committee members present to the Keep Texas Beautiful email list for further information.

5. Hear presentation from Horticulturist Chris Seale

The item was continued to the next meeting.

6. Discuss and consider 2025 Spring and Fall Cleanup dates

Polly Williams proposed April 5th for the spring cleanup and November 1st for the fall cleanup.

The Committee discussed adding future work sessions to the calendar.

Mr. John inquired about the logistics of the upcoming Dumpster Day. Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation explained it has traditionally been held at Global High School, at one central location which works well for staff and logistics.

Mr. John asked about the possibility of having two locations. Mr. Cooper explained that they become too full too quickly with the number of dumpsters we currently have access to.

Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, added that Dumpster Days are an extension of existing city services and asked whether adding another location would address a real need or potentially creating more challenges.

Mr. John suggested reaching out to the vendor for assistance. Mr. Cooper agreed to review the contract with the vendor to assess the feasibility of securing more dumpsters.

Action:

Forrest John moved to approve the 2025 Spring and Fall Cleanup dates. Motion was seconded by Polly Williams and carried unanimously (5-0).

7. Discuss the Governor's Community Achievement Award application process

The Item was presented by Ms. Bracken.

Mr. John noted that he reviewed the application and emphasized that it involves a city-wide effort, not just the Committee. He pointed out that gathering the necessary information to begin the application process will require significant effort.

Mr. Cooper responded that the required information is being collected by other departments and would only need to be compiled. He added that Horticulturist Chris Seale has expressed interest in being involved, as he will ultimately be responsible for maintaining the project.

Mr. John expressed concern about the 6-8 week timeline for gathering the data. Mr. Cooper assured him that the information would be gathered during the timeframe. He explained the City Engineer currently captures the data needed.

The Committee reached a consensus to proceed with the Governor's Community Achievement Award application, with Ms. Bracken designated as the grant writer.

8. Discuss Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee direction for 2025

Chairman Bracken presented the item, starting with a list of available grants on the Keep Texas Beautiful website. She then asked for suggestions for grants to apply for and reminded everyone that public comments had concluded, but they could reach out afterward with any questions or concerns.

Mr. John asked about recycling at the convenience station and if the Committee could approach Companies about recycling during Dumpster Days. He also expressed interest in learning more about stormwater permits and best management practices. He suggested reaching out to the City Engineer for a future presentation to educate the Committee. Mr. Cooper responded that he would attempt to schedule the City Engineer for a presentation in February and keep the Committee updated.

Mr. John noted that Code Enforcement had made presentations in the past and expressed a desire for better communication moving forward. Mr. Cooper explained that the Code Enforcement department is currently reorganizing, but once that process is complete, a meeting can be scheduled.

Mr. John shared that he had reached out to TxDOT regarding their mowing and litter schedule and would try to arrange for a representative to present to the Committee. He also discussed his plans to coordinate litter pickups opposite of TxDOT's mowing schedule.

Brent Gundert expressed his hope for more visibility in the future for the Committee, suggesting involvement in events and parades when possible.

Ms. Bracken briefly explained the process for submitting information to the city newsletter and posting about future events on social media.

9. Discuss Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Budget and promotional items

Mr. Cooper reviewed the annual budget and past spending to provide context on the Committee's historical operations.

Ms. Bracken inquired about potential promotional items and suggested signage for future events.

Ms. Williams proposed offering recyclable bags or totes for promotional items, as well as seed packets or magnets as giveaways.

Andrew Weyand emphasized the importance of having clear identification when visiting businesses and suggested creating 4x6 handouts for these visits.

Chairman Bracken noted that for seed packets, the Committee would need to purchase those specifically labeled "Blackland Prairie." Mr. Cooper confirmed he would coordinate with Chris Seale to ensure the correct type is purchased.

The Committee further discussed potential promotional items.

10. Discuss and consider requirements for the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Program

The item was presented by Mr. Gundert, who proposed the following nominees for the PIN Awards:

- 902 West Main
- 617 East Martin Avenue

Mr. John recommended selecting 902 West Main for this month, due to its additional Christmas decorations, and reserving the second nomination for the following month.

Chairman Bracken requested that the Committee be notified by email when award presentation times are scheduled, so members can participate.

Action:

Polly Williams moved to approve the requirements for the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Program as presented. Motion was seconded by Andrew Weyand and carried unanimously (5-0).

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Gravis
Acting Administrative Coordinator