

A G E N D A

A regular meeting of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee (KWBC) to be held on **Thursday, September 4, 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 June 5, 2025
4. Discuss and consider potential recycling program
5. Hear update on KWBC events from January 2025 to current
6. Discuss and consider Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Award nominations
7. Discuss and consider *Our Texas, Our Future* grant and Nicholas P. Sims Pollinator Garden
8. Discuss and consider Fall Sweep Cleanup and event planning
9. Discuss and consider Keep Texas Beautiful Training on September 10, 2025
10. 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.***

Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee
June 5, 2025

A regular meeting of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee was held on Thursday, June 5, 2025 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, Chair
Brent Gundert, Vice Chair
Polly Williams
Forrest John

Member(s) Absent: Jesse Gibson
Julie Mendenhall
Andrew Weyand

Ex-Officio
Member Absent: Kevin Strength, Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce

Others Present: Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brad Barnes, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Morgan Massey, Administrative Coordinator
Travis Smith, City Council Liaison

1. Call to Order

Chair Madeline Bracken called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Consider approval of Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of April 3, 2025 and May 1, 2025

Action:

Polly Williams moved to approve the minutes of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting of April 3, 2025 and May 1, 2025 as presented. Motion was seconded by Forrest John and carried unanimously (4-0).

4. Discuss and review the 2025 Spring Cleanup, Bulk Drop Off Day, Garden Expo, and Keep Texas Beautiful Conference events

Chair Bracken provided an update on the 2025 Spring Cleanup event. A total of 260 pounds of trash was collected from the creek bed at Little Creek, and 101 citizens utilized the dumpsters located at Global High School for bulk drop-off.

The Committee discussed the March 29th Garden Expo held at the Civic Center. The Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee (KWBC) hosted an informational table at the event, which was well-received and considered a success. The Committee discussed ideas for improving the event

in future years, including the importance of collecting data to better evaluate outcomes and participation.

Chair Bracken also shared an update on the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference.

5. Discuss and consider guidelines for the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Program

The Committee discussed the proposed guidelines for the Pride in Neighborhood Program.

Action:

Madeline Bracken moved to approve the Pride in Neighbor (PIN) Program guidelines as presented. Motion was seconded by Polly Williams and carried unanimously (4-0).

6. Discuss and consider PIN Award nominations

The Committee reviewed three nominations for the Pride in Neighborhood (PIN) Award for this month.

- 617 E. Marvin Street, nominated by Forrest John
- 310 Brown Street, nominated by Forrest John
- 617 E. Brown Street, nominated by Brent Gundert

Action:

Madeline Bracken moved to award the Pride in Neighborhood Award to the property owners of 617 E. Marvin. Motion was seconded by Polly Williams and carried unanimously (4-0).

7. Discuss and review feedback from the recent Governor's Community Achievement Award submission

Chair Bracken presented a handout detailing the Committee's recent Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) submission, along with the feedback received. The overall score was 87.5. However, there was some confusion regarding the scoring system and guidelines used by the judging panel.

Chair Bracken stated she would seek clarification on the scoring criteria to better inform next year's submission.

8. Discuss and review community input and grant opportunities related to expanding recycling efforts

The Committee discussed opportunities to expand local recycling efforts, with particular interest in pursuing recycling-related grants.

A question was raised about whether the convenience station currently recycles cardboard, and it was noted that it does not. In response, Kyle Cooper, Director of Parks and Recreation, suggested reviewing the City's existing contract with Waste Connections to determine if cardboard recycling could be incorporated.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of partnering with the Ellis County Master Gardeners to collaborate on grant applications aimed at supporting expanded recycling initiatives.

9. Discuss “Our Texas, Our Future” grant

Chair Bracken introduced the "Our Texas, Our Future" grant opportunity, offered by Keep Texas Beautiful in partnership with H-E-B, and asked the Committee to research the program and provide recommendations. Given the substantial effort involved in preparing the application, she suggested that the Committee focus on pursuing one grant at a time.

10. Recognize Waxahachie’s “Keep Texas Beautiful Silver Affiliate” status

Chair Bracken shared an update on the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference, which was held in Austin, Texas, on May 5–6, 2025. During the conference, the City of Waxahachie’s Keep Waxahachie Beautiful program was honored with Silver Star recognition. Chair Bracken noted the city's current environmental and beautification efforts and expressed confidence that the Committee is on track to achieve Gold Star status at next year’s conference.

11. Review current committee priorities and discuss potential new initiatives

Chair Bracken suggested forming a partnership between Keep Waxahachie Beautiful and Keep Ennis Beautiful. She proposed a potential friendly competition, the “Battle of 287” Trash-Off, involving Waxahachie High School and Ennis High School, tentatively scheduled for the fall.

Mr. Cooper suggested that KWBC consider supporting downtown events by assisting with trash pickup or helping clean headstones at the City Cemetery as part of community beautification efforts.

Morgan Massey, Administrative Coordinator, shared that KWBC had been invited to participate in the upcoming Touch a Truck event at Railyard Park. Chair Bracken volunteered to represent KWBC and run the informational table at the event.

The general consensus of the Committee was to further explore the initiatives discussed.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Massey
Administrative Coordinator