

A G E N D A

A regular meeting of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee (KWBC) to be held on ***October 1, 2026 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
Forrest John
Desiree Ramirez
Katrina Rabien
Jackie Wray

1. Call to Order
2. ***Public Comments:*** Persons may address the 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. ***Speakers must observe the three (3) minute time limit.***

In order to be recognized during Public Comments, please complete a Public Appearance Card located at the entrance of the meeting room. Please present the card to the City Secretary, or their designee, ten (10) minutes before the start of the business meeting.

3. Introduce new members and reorganize the Board
4. Consider approval of Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of September 3, 2026
5. Hear update on recycling application developed by WISD student
6. Discuss and approve KWBC expenditures/ budget for FY27
7. Hear update on the Governor's Community Achievement Award grant
8. Discuss and consider the compost grant application update
9. Discuss and consider planning for the fall cleanups including location determination
10. Discuss and consider Pride in Neighborhood Award nominations
11. Discuss and consider an electric box beautification program
12. Set next meeting date and time
13. 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

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

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 ADA Coordinator at (469) 309-4000 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
September 3, 2026

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee was held on September 3, 2026 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
Julie Mendenhall
Forrest John
Desiree Ramirez

Members Absent: Vacant

City Council Travis Smith, City Council Liaison
Liaison Absent:

Others Present: Gumaro Martinez, Director of Parks & Recreation
Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation
Morgan Davis, Administrative Coordinator
Chris Seale, Horticulturist, Beautification Department

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 May 7, 2026 and August 6, 2026.

Action:

Polly Williams moved to approve the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of May 7, 2026 and August 6, 2026 as presented. Motion was seconded by Desiree Ramirez and carried unanimously (6-0).

4. Discuss Tree Giveaway

Chair Bracken introduced Chris Seale, Horticulturist with the City of Waxahachie Beautification Department. Mr. Seale presented information regarding the annual Tree Giveaway.

Mr. Seale stated that the event is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Farmers Market. Approximately 100 trees, consisting of 3- to 5-gallon saplings, are expected to be available. Tree varieties may include Red Oak, Bur Oak, and Mexican Plum. It was noted that fruit trees continue to be particularly popular with residents.

The Tree Giveaway is a collaborative effort between the City of Waxahachie Beautification Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Keep Waxahachie Beautiful.

5. Review and discuss nominations and award PIN award

The Committee reviewed and discussed the nominations received for the Pride in Neighborhoods (PIN) Award. Nominations included 230 Dakota Drive and 216 Lakeshore Drive.

Action:

Polly Williams moved to award the Pride in Neighborhood Award to the property owners of 230 Dakota Drive. Motion was seconded by Forrest John and carried unanimously (6-0).

6. Hear update on recycling programming and the audit report from Waste Connections

Committee Member Forrest John presented a slideshow and provided an update on recycling programming, including the results of the Waste Connections recycling audit. The audit indicated a high percentage of paper and cardboard in the recycling stream, along with a significant amount of contamination, or “residue.”

The Committee discussed common contaminants found in the recycling stream, including glass, plastic grocery bags, and textiles. Discussion focused on the need for increased public education regarding proper recycling practices.

The Committee discussed developing a social media campaign to educate residents about proper recycling practices and help reduce contamination in the City's recycling stream.

7. Discuss Compost Grant Applications

Chair Bracken presented information regarding the proposed composting grant program for elementary schools. The proposed application was approved as presented.

It was noted that six composters are currently available, allowing the program to initially support three elementary schools, with two composters provided to each school. A private business has also expressed interest in sponsoring a fourth school.

Partners in Education will assist with distributing and collecting applications from participating schools. The Committee also discussed providing participating schools with the “Let’s Go Compost” curriculum.

A subcommittee consisting of Committee members Polly Williams, Desiree Ramirez, and Madeline Bracken was formed to review applications and select the participating schools. The Committee agreed to initially support three schools and pursue the additional corporate sponsorship once the program is established.

8. Discuss Partner in Education opportunity

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Chair Bracken presented information regarding the Partners in Education (PIE) “Adopt a Classroom” opportunity. The program requires a \$50 donation and a commitment to volunteer for at least 30 minutes twice per month.

The Committee discussed how the program aligns with Keep Waxahachie Beautiful’s mission by providing opportunities to promote environmental education within elementary classrooms, including activities such as storytime and education about recycling and conservation.

The Committee acknowledged that the application will be submitted after the start of the August program cycle; however, the general consensus of the Committee was to proceed with applying for the Partners in Education Adopt a Classroom program opportunity.

9. Discuss the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference and discuss potential initiatives for Waxahachie

Chair Bracken provided an update regarding the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference and shared ideas for potential initiatives in Waxahachie.

Chair Bracken presented the idea of electric utility box wraps, inspired by an initiative discussed at the conference. The Committee discussed using artwork to enhance the appearance of utility boxes throughout the community. The estimated cost is approximately \$2,000 per wrap, with an anticipated lifespan of approximately seven years. The potential for obtaining private sponsorships to offset the cost was discussed.

The Committee expressed significant interest in the concept, with funding identified as a consideration. The item will be presented at a future meeting for formal action.

10. Review KWBC’s annual numbers and impact to date

The Committee reviewed Keep Waxahachie Beautiful’s calendar year-to-date numbers and community impact. To date, Keep Waxahachie Beautiful and its community volunteers have completed eight cleanups, resulting in the collection of approximately 1,672 pounds of garbage from land and waterways throughout the City of Waxahachie.

The Committee discussed the continued impact of volunteer participation and community cleanup efforts in keeping Waxahachie clean and promoting environmental stewardship.

11. Discuss planning for the fall cleanups

The Committee discussed upcoming private cleanup events scheduled through October. The Committee also discussed Keep Waxahachie Beautiful’s fall community cleanup, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 14, 2026. The location for the event has not yet been determined.

12. Review the new City website

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Chair Bracken presented the City of Waxahachie's new website and highlighted Keep Waxahachie Beautiful's new subpage located within the Parks and Recreation section of the website.

13. Set next meeting date and time

The next Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting will be held October 1, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

14. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Davis, Administrative Coordinator