Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee
March 5, 2026

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee was held on Thursday, March 5, 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 Austin Mauldin Forrest John Desiree Ramirez
Member Absent:	Julie Mendenhall
Ex-Officio Member:	Kevin Strength, Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce
City Council Liaison Absent:	Travis Smith, City Council Liaison
Others Present:	Brad Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Morgan Davis, Administrative Coordinator

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 February 5, 2026

Austin Mauldin requested further clarification in the minutes on the Public Meeting Appearance Cards. He requested to add, "Chair Bracken explained the new Public Meeting Appearance Card that must be filled out prior to the start of the meeting. This card allows members of the public to speak during the public comments for a total of 3 minutes. The Committee will only listen and not address the comment."

Action:
Polly Williams motioned to approve the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee meeting minutes of February 5, 2026 with above amendments. Motion was seconded by Brent Gundert and carried unanimously (6-0).

4. Hear Leadership Ellis County Project Presentation and take any necessary action

The Leadership Ellis County team presented a slideshow outlining their proposed class project for the May 2026 graduating class. The project focuses on cleaning and improving the area along

Rogers Spring Branch Creek. Proposed enhancements include the addition of benches, lighting, sidewalks, and general beautification of the space. Members of the Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee (KWBC) agreed to assist with litter cleanup efforts in the area.

No action taken.

5. Introduce the Building and Community Services Department and discuss potential partnership opportunities

Jason Watson, Senior Director of Building and Community Services, introduced himself and expressed his interest in establishing a partnership between the Building and Community Services Department, Code Enforcement, and KWBC to further efforts to beautify the city. Mr. Watson presented several example areas within the city that could benefit from additional attention and community support. General discussion was held regarding potential collaboration opportunities.

KWBC members agreed to form a subcommittee to further explore partnership possibilities and discuss potential initiatives. This item will be placed on the April 2nd agenda for further discussion.

6. Discuss and consider Spring Cleanup planning scheduled for April 25, 2026

Following discussion of Agenda Item #12, the Committee returned to Agenda Item #6. General discussion was held regarding planning for the Spring Cleanup event scheduled for April 25, 2026. The Committee reviewed the event flyer design and provided several suggestions for revisions. Members also discussed event strategies and logistics, including the need to order additional supplies such as litter pickers. No action was taken on this item.

7. Discuss Pollinator Garden Planning

Chair Bracken distributed flyers to the Committee and provided an update on the Pollinator Garden project. Discussion included planning for a pre-workday to prepare the garden area ahead of the main event. The primary workday is scheduled for the Saturday, March 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and the prep day is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 19th at 5:30 p.m.

8. Hear update on Master Gardner Expo

General discussion was held regarding the upcoming Master Gardener Expo, scheduled for March 28th. Chair Bracken announced that the KWBC booth topic will focus on recycling initiatives and that Abel from Waste Connections will be present to assist. Volunteers will be assigned to two-hour shifts to help manage activities and track visitor numbers. KWBC will also have promotional items (swag) available to distribute to attendees.

9. Discuss Keep Texas Beautiful Conference

The conference will be a webinar from May 12th to May 14th. The Committee will plan a watch party to be held at the Parks and Recreation building.

10. Hear update on Waste Connections Recycling Program

This item was not discussed.

11. Review and discuss nominations and award PIN Award

The Committee reviewed nominations for the PIN Award. One nomination was received for 1410 W. Main Street, submitted by Forrest John.

Action:
Polly Williams moved to award the Pride in Neighborhood Award to the property owners of 1410 W. Main Street. Motion was seconded by Desiree Ramirez and carried unanimously (6-0).

12. Review and discuss the Governor's Community Grant

Agenda Item #12 was moved up on the agenda and discussed following Item #5. Chair Bracken provided an update to the Committee regarding the progress of the Governor's Community Grant application. She informed the Committee that the application is currently being finalized and will be submitted soon. No action was taken on this item. Following discussion, the Committee returned to Item #6 on the agenda.

13. Review and discuss current Keep Waxahachie Beautiful Committee bylaws and take any necessary action

A proposal was discussed to amend the bylaws to require members to attend two KWBC activities per year in addition to the existing meeting attendance requirements, with the goal of encouraging active participation. This item will be placed on the April 2nd agenda for further discussion and to draft specific language, which would ultimately require City Council approval.

Members noted inconsistencies in the onboarding process for new appointees. It was suggested that the City Secretary's Office provide all new members with a comprehensive onboarding packet that includes the bylaws and committee expectations. The bylaws require an ex officio from the Chamber of Commerce; however, it was questioned if the current representative is required to attend meetings. The Committee will revisit this provision at the next meeting and ensure the Chamber is invited to participate moving forward.

No action was taken.

14. Set next meeting date and time

The next KWBC meeting will be held April 2, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

15. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Davis, Administrative Coordinator