

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – November 14, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Beautification Advisory Board was held on **November 14, 2023**, at 8:00 a.m. at the Gonzales Main Street / Economic Development Building located at 304 St. Lawrence Street. This was an OPEN MEETING, open to the public, subject to the open meeting laws of the State of Texas and, as required by law, was duly posted at the Gonzales Municipal Building giving notice of time, date, place, and agenda thereof. The meeting notice, agenda and agenda packet were posted online at www.gonzales.texas.gov.

CALL TO ORDER

Staff liaison Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and a quorum was certified.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Connie Dolezal	Board Member	Present
Deane Parsley-Novosad	Board Member	Absent
Dee Sengelmann	Board Member	Present
Jessica McKinney	Board Member	Present
Pat Anders-Ryan	Board Member	Present

STAFF PARTICIPATING:

Tiffany Padilla – Main Street Director

GUESTS

Mayor Steve Sucher
EDC Director Susan Sankey

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Sucher offered his thanks and gratitude for the board’s service. He also added information regarding the “Mayor’s mowing brigade”. He will recruit community member Bruce Maulding to assist. Mayor Steve has been out on St Andrew Street between the liquor store and 90A, on Robertson Street and a little bit of time on Seydler. The main focus is on St Andrew and Robertson. Will work with city to get weeds out of the street and grass out of the gutter. Getting curbs to where we can see them. Get some corporate involvement when it is on their property. We do need litter control before the moving goes out or we end up with shredded litter from the mower and it aggravates the situation. Mayor Steve needs a few more willing and able volunteers to assist and coordinate the efforts with. The litter control needs to happen first, then come in with the mowers. A publicity campaign to keep people from throwing items out their car windows may help. Board Member Sengelmann suggested mentioning not blowing grass clippings into the road on a FB post.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action approving the October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes.
Action: Item 1.1 **Approved**
Board Member Anders-Ryan offered clarification on item 1.2 that the cleaning up of the corner of St Joseph Street should include that “bypass” on Sarah DeWitt to give better location of where the fence poles are. With the clarification, Board Member McKinney moved to approve the October 17, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes with the adjustments suggested by Board Member Anders-Ryan. Board Member Sengelmann seconded the motion. Staff Liaison Padilla called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

- 1.2 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding Wildflower seeding and exploration of funding sources

Action: Item 1.2

Approved

Discussion: At past meetings it was recommended that we could ask EDC for funds from their Beautification line item. Upon further discovery, EDC clarified that they must abide by EDC law that limits their funding to items that increase sales tax. Board Member McKinney questioned if they have money in a “Quality of Life” line-item option. Staff liaison Padilla indicated that the process for asking for funds is still not clear. Mayor Sucher offered that the EDC is currently undergoing a “recalibration” of the grant process and that with time, perhaps there could be a request. EDC Director Sankey offered that we need to be very smart about the funding that we have. Mayor Sucher asked how much money we anticipate it costing. Board Member McKinney stated that pricing is about \$1000 per acre. Board Member Anders-Ryan suggested we solicit donations from garden clubs and other organizations. Seeding should be done in the fall for spring flowering, so we would need to move on something rather quickly. We are looking at the beginning at the Memorial Museum as a starting point. The goal would be to have the museum grounds full of blue bonnets. We would like to raise \$2000. Mayor Sucher will pledge \$250. Perhaps solicit from other companies. Let’s put it out on Facebook. Approach the floral shops and other local businesses. Ask Mainstreet for funds. We could start small and be very thoughtful about how the seeding goes and have an area that is still “mowable” as you are waiting for the flowers to seed out it looks a bit unkept. We would need to put some signage on it that says “don’t mow”. Board Member McKinney made a motion to have a fund-raising campaign and seek corporate sponsorships for wildflower seeding. Board Member Anders-Ryan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 4 to 0.

- 1.3 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding Lion’s Park Improvements

Action: None

Discussion Only

Discussion: The replacement of the playground equipment and renovation of the park is currently being considered by the Gonzales Noon Lion’s Club and the City of Gonzales. This item was asked to be put on the agenda to keep top-of-mind having art on the exterior walls of the restroom as the plans progress to beautify this area. It was also suggested that we might be able to use the “wood fence” around the mechanical equipment to the pond at the municipal building as a palette for an art scene or just being stained. The art club will meet this month and Board Member Anders-Ryan will ask for a proposal, recommendations, or ideas from them to present to this board for consideration on the restroom at the Lion’s Park or the wood fencing at the municipal building.

- 1.4 Subcommittee to offer progress of community driven cleanup campaign and lead discussion regarding campaign.

Action: None

Discussion Only

Board Member McKinney reported that she will be meeting with Barbara to get some of the planning details that they used to use for the Jim Price Clean up campaign. At the first of the year, we will send out the letters that have already been submitted to this board for approval. We need to get a list of businesses from the Chamber to get the letters sent out after Winterfest. A suggestion from Mayor Sucher includes adding verbiage to reference the neighborhood campaigns. Board Member Sengelmann suggested asking city council members to identify five people in their district to be champions and leaders in their neighborhoods for this campaign. Board members agreed to reach out to City Council members. Board member Sengelmann will reach out to Council person Hernandez, Board Member McKinney will reach out to Council person Miller and Kridler, Board Member Dolezal will reach out to Council person Keopp.

- 1.5 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding Keep Texas Beautiful projects

Action: None

Discussion Only

We are currently a Provisional Affiliate with KTB. We need to submit all items on the check list to move to an “affiliate” status. Board Member McKinney suggested adding our new affiliation with KTB to the letter we plan to send out. Perhaps we could be poised to get a beautification grant for our Bicentennial celebration.

- 1.6 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding community fundraising campaign to purchase American flags on poles to line the incoming avenues for July 4th.

Action: Tabled

Discussion Only

We can purchase American Flags in bulk from the same supplier that is used by the City. The cost of the flags are approx. \$20-30 per flag and we can then ask the welding students at the school to make the poles for the flags. The next step will be to create a fundraising campaign to purchase the flags for the avenues and public spaces. We need to determine how many flags we would need. We could aim for 50. Having 25 on each entrance to start would be ideal. It will take legwork on this committee’s part to get the sponsors. We will table this discussion until after the holidays.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 2.1 Report from Board Member Sengelmann on yard of the month and decorating
The signs for yard of the month have come in and the first Yard of the Month was awarded on St. Louis Street. They chose a yard to recognize on a main street to create excitement. It is not a contest; it is just recognition.
- 2.2 Report on Butterfly Garden by Board Member Dolezal and Staff liaison Padilla.
Connie’s group has been to the garden and done quite a bit of pruning and weeding. The items trimmed will grow back. There were some plants that died, and the group planted 5-6 additional lantana plants and added 6 solar uplighting on the magnolia trees. Connie asked that the water be cut off completely. Will ask Ron to come back and advise on plants prior to spring and fix leaks on drip system.
James McMains and Bruce Harborth have agreed to repair the solar panel and the pump.
- 2.3 Requests by board members for items on a future Beautification Board Meeting agenda
- Jim Price be a standing agenda item
 - Keep Gonzales Beautiful
 - Wildflower Seeding
 - Planning for July 4th and line incoming avenues with American flags.
- 2.2 Set date and time for next meeting.
- Tuesday, December 12th at 8:00am

ADJOURN

A motion by Board Member Dolezal to adjourn and seconded by Board Member McKinney, the meeting adjourned at 9:01am. Staff liaison called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 4 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 am.

Approved this 14th day of November 2023

Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla
Main Street Director, City of Gonzales