

**CITY OF GONZALES, TEXAS
BEAUTIFICATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Beautification Advisory Board was held on **November 18, 2025**, at 8:00 a.m. at the Gonzales Main Street / Economic Development Building located at 305 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 8:03 a.m. and a quorum was certified.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Connie Dolezal	Board Member	Present
Jessica McKinney	Board Member	Absent
Pat Anders-Ryan	Board Member	Present
Luz Moreno	Board Member	Present
Dee Sengelmann	Board Member	Present
Debbie Ticken	Board Member	Present
Jennifer Gibbons	Board Member	Present
Jean Burns	Board Member	Absent
Jessica Barnett	Board Member	Present

STAFF PARTICIPATING:

Tiffany Padilla – Main Street Director

GUESTS

Luz & Mark Keiser

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.1 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action approving the October 21, 2025, meeting minutes
Action: Item 1.1 **Tabled**
Meeting minutes were unavailable. They will be brought back to the board at the next meeting for review and approval.

- 1.2 Presentation and Discussion on neighborhood cleaning crew proposal provided by Luz Keiser.
Action: Item 1.2 **Discussion only**
The board heard a presentation from Luz Keiser on GoUnity, a Gonzales + unity community cleanup initiative inspired by the mayor’s message about unity, to improve neighborhood pride, mental and physical well-being, and community connection through simple, consistent litter pick-up efforts. Luz outlined a flexible program model with daily self-paced walkers, weekly themed group cleanups, and monthly larger events. She proposed that the Beautification Board adopt GoUnity as an ongoing initiative by helping with a public cleanup calendar, promotion, and starter supplies (grabbers, gloves, bags), noting that bilingual promotional materials are already prepared and editable. Board members strongly supported the concept, while also emphasizing the need for a prevention-focused anti-litter education campaign—especially in schools and through social media—and discussed engaging local businesses and youth/community groups (such as Leos, FFA, 4-H, church groups, scouts, sports teams, and others) to participate. The board ultimately agreed that they would like to partner with GoUnity to create a structured cleanup calendar and provide

supplies from the Beautification budget, with follow-up action items to coordinate program development and explore creation of a dedicated Facebook page for outreach

- 1.3 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding planting museum flowerbeds. **Action: Item 1.3** **Approved**
The board discussed planting options for the museum flower beds following the recent installation of solar lighting, noting that funding is already available but the planting season is ending, so they must decide whether to seed now or move forward with a more detailed plan. Members agreed that any plants selected must be low-growing (generally under about three feet) so they do not block sightlines near seating and speaker boxes, and should also be heat-, drought-, and preferably freeze-tolerant, low-maintenance, and largely dwarf varieties since the city will be responsible for upkeep. Suggested plants included lantana, sage, verbena, dwarf Mexican petunias, mini boxwoods, and short/mini nandinas, with discussion of evergreen options for year-round color and concern about invasive or freeze-sensitive varieties. After learning that the Museum Board did not want to take on the landscaping work, the group agreed to provide formal plant recommendations instead, also noting the need to prepare the soil and address Bermuda grass and weeds before planting. Board Member Anders-Ryan made a motion to provide a list of plants to the museum board for consideration of planting in the landscape beds. Board Member Sengelmann seconded the motion. Board liaison Padilla called for a vote. Unanimous 7:0.
- 1.4 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding City Christmas Decorations **Action: Item 1.4** **Discussion Only**
The board reviewed significant coordination challenges with this year's Christmas decorating effort, including communication and partnership issues with city personnel. Despite early work on light pole decorations and assistance from volunteers who sorted and cleaned items in storage, the overall process was described as difficult and disorganized. Members noted progress in getting four lighted wreath and garland decorations operational for placement on St. Joseph Street (with one still needing a cord repair). Board members raised concerns about widespread failures in the downtown architectural lighting system, including many burned-out bulbs and falling light strings, with discussion of possibly turning the building lighting off until it can be fully repaired. The board also reviewed remaining tasks—garlands, wreaths, and the Santa/reindeer display—along with the poor condition of stored decorations and the need to clean wreaths before installation and briefly discussed the warehouse's contents and longer-term reuse possibilities. The board will revisit the overall holiday décor inventory and strategy after the season to plan repairs and potential upgrades for next year. Mark Ence plans to repair and stabilize the damaged reindeer decoration.
- 1.5 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding Monument Fencing **Action: Item 1.5** **Discussion Only**
Staff requested assistance from the board members contacting local welders to get bids for the monument fencing. The two current bids are from out-of-town providers and the cost is approximate \$8000. Board member Dolezal will get contact phone numbers to staff this week.
- 1.6 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding social media campaign **Action: Item 1.6** **Discussion Only**
A social media page needs to be created and then shared with the board to push out on their pages. Marketing to include: education targeting the youth to promote clean up. Also share successes.
- 1.7 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding promoting Kerr Creek Bridge as a destination **Action: Item 1.7** **Tabled**
The board could not recall who requested this on the agenda so therefore it was tabled.

- 1.8 Discuss, Consider and Possible Action regarding Jim Price Clean Up and new location for bulk waste drop off

Action: Item 1.8

Approved

Staff presented a proposal to use the area by the soccer field/quadrplex by Independence Park. Board Member Sengelmann made a motion to recommend the proposed location to City Council for the Jim Price Clean-up Bulk waste drop off. Board Member Anders-Ryan seconded the motion. Board liaison Padilla called for a vote. Unanimous 7:0.

STAFF/BOARD REPORTS

- 2.1 Report by Board Member Dolezal or Tieken on Market Square revitalizations.
Board member Dolezal reported that John Parr has removed the light posts and they are waiting on Buba to bring the dirt work.
- 2.2 Report by Pat Anders-Ryan on Art Club progress on Lion's Park Murals.
The third wall mural has been completed at Lions Park. Board members suggested that we consider promoting art to the youth on the grey utility boxes.
- 2.3 Report by Staff Liaison Hutchinson-Padilla on replacement of Independence Park sign and upcoming city events.
A draft was presented and it was suggested that our flag be added to the design.
- 2.4 Requests by board members for items on a future Beautification Board Meeting agenda
Art on utility boxes
Kerr Creek Bridge
Murals and possible grants
- 2.5 Set date and time for next meeting.
December 16, 2025 @ 8:00 am

ADJOURN

A motion by Board Member Tieken to adjourn and seconded by Board Member Barnett, the meeting adjourned at 9:12 am. Staff liaison called for a roll call vote. For: Unanimous. The motion passed 7 to 0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 am.

Approved this 18th day of November 2025

Tiffany Hutchinson-Padilla
Main Street Director, City of Gonzales