

**MINUTES OF THE
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL BOARD
May 6, 2015
Abilene City Hall – Basement Conference Room**

OFFICERS PRESENT

Shane Johnson, President
Martin Garcia, President Elect
Scott Kilmer, Treasurer
Elyse Lewis, Secretary

OFFICERS ABSENT

None

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Corey Ruff
Elizabeth McAnally
E'Lisa Smetana

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Sylvia Holcomb

KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL STAFF

Nicole Eaves, KAB Coordinator

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT

Srini Valavala, Stormwater Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Wendy Allen, WCTCOG

GUESTS PRESENT

None

Item I: **Call to Order.** - Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. A quorum of Board members was present.

- Item II:** **Consent Agenda.**
- 1. Approval of Minutes – Approval of minutes from April 2015 regular meeting at the Abilene City Hall – Basement Conference Room**
 - 2. Approval of Treasurer’s Reports from April 2015**

Updated financial reports, provided by Mr. Kilmer, were included in the packets for April 2015. A summary of those are listed below.

KAB General Account

Current Bank Account Balance	35,305.64
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Deposits *outstanding	\$0.59 Interest \$698.55 Republic Services, Inc.
Expenditures/Checks Written * checks outstanding	\$128.40 Abilene Chamber of Commerce, ck#2295
Current Bank Account Balance (as of Month End)	\$35,876.38
Current Bank Account Balance (w/Outstandings ***as of Month End)	\$35,876.38

KAB Project Account

Beginning Bank Account Balance	\$681.65
Deposits *outstanding	\$0.00
Expenditures/Checks Written * checks outstanding	\$0.00
Current Bank Account Balance (as of Month End)	\$681.65
Current Bank Account Balance (w/Outstandings ***as of Month End)	\$681.65

Ms. Smetana requested clarification of Action item 3 from the April minutes to read that the action was taken to pull the item from the table and that no action was needed. Mr. Kilmer requested that the expense of \$128.40 on financials be changed from Trash bags to Trash grabbers. Ms. Eaves also stated that a minor correction is needed on the financials due to a reimbursement of taxes paid in cash. The cash will be deposited to the KAB account.

A motion was made by Ms. Smetana and seconded by Mr. Garcia to approve the consent agenda with the noted changes. Through roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Item III: Action Items

- A. Budget Adjustments –Based on discussion of Keep Texas Beautiful Conference travel expenses at the April meeting, Ms. Eaves proposed combining the budget line items Conferences and Seminars and Travel budget line items into one due to a shortfall in Conferences and Seminars and a overage in Travel. She also proposed the possibility of moving at least \$305 in funds from the Travel line item to Conferences and Seminars to balance the line items. Mr. Garcia suggested combining the two line items. Mr. Kilmer agreed and suggested the new line item be titled Travel.

A motion was made by Mr. Kilmer and seconded by Ms. McAnally to combine the Conferences and Seminars budget line item with the Travel budget line item under the banner of Travel. Through roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Item IV: Non-Action Items

- A. The Governor's Community Achievement Award – Ms. Eaves emailed the board the GCAA results and feedback which reflected a score of 94. Ms. Eaves opened the floor for comments. Mr. Garcia requested clarification on GCAA feedback requesting additional information. Ms. Eaves outlined the judging feedback received: great job on public awareness with a small budget; requested participant numbers at educational events; judges liked hearing about the Cedar Creek Waterway project, but would have liked to see Adopt a Highway numbers (which were provided by Ms. Eaves in another area of the application); judges were unclear how primary sources of litter were addressed; would like to see more involvement with civic groups and businesses on solid waste management; requested more explanation of litter law and illegal dumping; suggested development of partnerships with state or national environmental organizations that could provide free literature or promotional items; and requested information about how KAB instills pride in the community appearance.

Ms. Smetana expressed concern after looking at the list of winners, that West Texas was penalized due to current drought conditions. She suggested that the board might want to watch for patterns in the winners and address these concerns at the state level. Ms. Lewis suggested expressing these concerns at the KTB Conference in June. Ms. Eaves stated that the conference will offer a seminar on the GCAA presentation. Ms. Smetana also expressed concern that the size of cities Abilene was competing against were suburbs of large cities and more well-funded. She suggested committee targeted efforts to improve on the areas where feedback was provided and look for future patterns. Ms. Eaves will email areas for improvement to the board to review. Ms. Lewis also stated that the organization that operates the water conservation calculator used on the KAB website has been updated and that the organization has requested future partnership and sharing of information with KAB.

- B. Committee Reports – None

- C. Coordinator's Report – Ms. Eaves stated that Project Re-Directory is complete and that 14 schools participated. Of the 6 schools who have reported phonebook totals thus far, 5,909 were collected. Basset Elementary will receive the \$100 award. The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off was still successful in spite of KAB not hosting a formal event. 94 volunteers participated and collected 1,385 pounds of trash. Byrd Thomas with the Center for Contemporary Arts Trash Camp requested that KAB provide camp scholarships open to children from Hendrick Home for Children at a cost of \$125/camper. Board discussion followed and it was determined that KAB would allocate \$250 for 2 children to participate.

Ms. Eaves presented an idea for a park memorial tree or bench program partnership with the City of Abilene Parks Department. KAB would function as the 501c3 tax write off nonprofit for this project. She has discussed this idea with the parks department and they have expressed interest in offering a memorial tree, memorial bench, or memorial pergola option. Ms. Eaves requested board input on the idea. Board discussion followed about how the partnership would function. Ms. Eaves stated that KAB would filter the funds, order the product, send a certificate and map to the donor once installed, and provide the tax write off. The Parks Department would provide installation. Ms. Eaves stated that the Parks Department is also interested in a partnership with KAB in which KAB would be the face of future projects similar to the recent River Oaks Traffic Triangle project. KAB would go into neighborhoods on behalf of the parks department to get support to update traffic triangles. Mr. Johnson expressed concern about the project, and Mr. Kilmer expressed support for the idea of KAB being a clearing house for these funds. Mr. Valavala suggested other garden options for traffic triangles to consider. Board discussion followed and resulted in instructions for Ms. Eaves to continue discussion with Parks to explore the idea further.

Ms. Eaves asked the board to consider shrinking the board size from 13 to 9. After meeting with the City Secretary, concern was expressed at the number of KAB board vacancies. Mr. Johnson expressed support of the proposed bylaw change. Ms. Eaves stated that a bylaw change must pass through both legal and the Abilene City Council for approval. Then, a special meeting will be held to make the bylaw changes. Once KAB board has approved the changes, it will go before the City Council for approval to make the bylaw changes. Mr. Garcia requested the pros and cons of the change. Ms. Eaves stated that the change would allow for rotation of board members once terms have expired. Mr. Kilmer expressed concern at possible negative perception of shrinking the board. Ms. Eaves stated that concerned has been expressed at the number of KAB board vacancies. Discussion followed, and the board expressed interest in proceeding with the change. The bylaw meeting will be held prior to the next KAB board meeting.

- D. Community Partners Reports – Wendy Allen with West Central Texas Council of Governments provided information about WCTCOG solid waste grant funding, community development grants, programming for city leadership in rural areas, and storm shelter grants.

Item V: **Adjournment** – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 3, 2015 at 12 noon in the Abilene City Hall in the Basement Conference Room.

Elyse Lewis, Secretary

Shane Johnson, President