

**MINUTES OF THE
KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL BOARD
Abilene City Hall – Basement Conference Room
May 3, 2017**

OFFICERS PRESENT

Martin Garcia, President
Gayla Fullerton, Treasurer

OFFICERS ABSENT

Scott Kilmer, Secretary
Sylvia Holcomb, President-Elect

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashton Anderson
Elyse Lewis
Elizabeth McAnally
Brandon McAuliffe
E’Lisa Smetana

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

NA

KEEP ABILENE BEAUTIFUL STAFF

Nicole Eaves, KAB Coordinator

ADVISORY MEMBERS PRESENT

Srini Valavala, Stormwater Services
Odis Dalton, Office of Neighborhood Services
Paige Rudasics, Abilene Zoo

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Doug Burks, West Central Texas Council of Governments

GUESTS PRESENT

Tara Young

Item I: Call to Order. Mr. Garcia 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 the March and April 2017 regular meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Smetana and seconded by Mr. Anderson to approve the March and April 2017 treasurer's reports. Through roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Item III: Action Items

A. Abilene High School Grant Request (Tabled April 5, 2017)

A motion was made by Mr. McAuliffe and seconded by Ms. Smetana to remove action item Abilene High School Grant Request from the table. Through roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Eaves reported on the additional information previously requested about this request: Given that there are 3 weeks remaining of school, Abilene High School teachers would likely wait until August to plant a tower garden, but there are teachers who are willing to take home and maintain a tower garden over the summer, if necessary. They will have two teachers certified in permaculture. Teachers are open to the possibility of building a tower garden at a cheaper rate. The original request for KAB was for \$1,500, and AISD would provide an additional \$1,500 in matching funds for the project.

Ms. Young provided an outline of what would be included in the purchase. The purchase includes: light kits, tomato cage, tonic, seeds, timers for water and lights, space to accommodate 28 plants per garden.

Mr. Anderson expressed concern at the cost of this request. Mr. Anderson expressed interest in building tower gardens rather than purchasing the proposed system. Mr. McAuliffe suggested approaching AISD trade programs to build tower gardens.

Ms. Lewis inquired to the amount of funds remaining in the current fiscal year's grant budget. Discussion followed about remaining budget funds available for the current fiscal year. In grants and awards, only \$589 dollars remain in the grants and awards budget.

Mr. McAuliffe expressed concern that allowing teachers to grow over the summer would deny students the learning opportunity. Ms. Lewis stated that she is not in favor of spending funds that are not within the current year budget.

A motion was made by Mr. McAuliffe and seconded by Mr. Anderson to deny the request. Through roll call, the motion carried unanimously.

B. The funds and purchase of trash grabbers to donate to the Marshal's Division

Ms. Eaves stated that the Marshals have requested 5 heavy duty trash grabbers for their vehicles. KAB provides plastic grabbers for the Marshal's Division, but they have requested more sturdy grabbers. Grabbers are estimated to cost approximately \$9.99 each.

Item IV: Non-Action Items

A. The Governor's Community Achievement Award

The following items were discussed to add to the GCAA application:

- No additions

B. Committee Reports

The following committees met since the last meeting:

- Fundraising Committee – Update on 2017 Fundraising
 - Abilene Gives – The Abilene Gives Giving Day Raised \$70
 - Crape Myrtle Fundraiser – 89 of the 1,500 crape myrtles have been sold to date. Crape myrtles are 3-gallon plants; available in 3 colors; \$20 each; and are Buy 5, Get 1 Free. Crape myrtle t-shirts are available for sale at \$10 each. Plant pickup days are June 9th in the afternoon and June 10th all day.
- Event Committee – No Report
- Executive Committee – No Report

C. Coordinator's Report

- Existing Program Updates:
 - Possible bylaw changes: There is potential for a future bylaws update. Abilene City Council has approved a new rules of order process.
 - Abilene Outdoor Adventures: June 3 at Nelson Park. This is a free event open to this public. KAB will have a booth at this event from 9AM – 5 PM. KAB will be one of many booths at this event and will offer the following:
 - What happens to raindrop – education about water pollution
 - Park cleanups
 - Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will participate
- Community Involvement Requests:
 - Upcoming Future Request: The Abilene Preservation League is partnering with Master Gardeners and will be asking for a funding request for gardens to be planted at the Swenson House. Master gardeners plan to use the gardens as demonstration gardens for the area. In return for a donation, KAB would receive signage on premises.

D. Community Partners Reports and Advisory Members

- Odis Dalton with Office of Neighborhood Services and the Abilene Neighborhood Initiative discussed a program he will be submitting to the City Council and City of Abilene. Part of this project would be supplies for painting houses at a cost of approximately \$500/house. A pilot program will begin later this summer. A goal of this program is to entice contractors to rebuild Abilene from the center of the city. He discussed the possibility of having Keep Abilene Beautiful hold the funds for these

Item V: Adjournment – With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **June 7, 2017** at 12 noon in the Abilene City Hall in the Basement Conference Room.



Elyse Lewis for Scott Kilmer, Secretary



Martin Garcia, President