



CITY OF  
FORESTPARK

Beautification Committee

Draft Minutes

September 22, 2025

**Attendance:** Ann Keith, Willie Freeman, Kwadernica Rhea, Lashawn Boykin, Lois Wright, Onesia Scott, Derry Walker (Director)

**Approval of Agenda:** It was motioned by Ann Keith to add the following items to the agenda, "Cleaning projects, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative, and all other miscellaneous beautification topics." It was motioned by Lashawn Boykin to approve updated agenda. Wille Freeman seconded that motion.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was motioned by Kwadernica Rhea to approve the meeting minutes with the correct spelling of Kwadernica Rhea's name. Ann Keith seconded that motion.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Discussion/Update of Ward 5 Block Party**

**Derry Walker** advised committee members that the date for Ward 5 Block Party will be scheduled for September 29, 2025.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Discussion/Update of Scarecrow Decorating Contest**

**Derry Walker** informed committee members that Code Compliance would be partnering with Economic Development to launch the Scarecrow Initiative. He noted that the application process was still underway but expected to be completed by Thursday, October 2nd. Once finalized, he would send the completed application to committee members.

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**Derry Walker** advised committee that two members of the Beautification Committee were on the judging panel for competition and confirmed if committee wanted to create a scarecrow.

**Ann Keith** suggested decorating the area near the City Hall sign.

**Derry Walker** briefed committee members on the logistics of the Scarecrow Competition, including the planned location.

**Kwadernica Rhea** inquired about the appropriate days for purchasing decorations to begin assembling the scarecrows.

**Derry Walker** advised that bales of hay would be purchased no later than Monday October 6, 2025.

**Ann Keith** inquired about City workers refreshing flowers by City Hall sign so that the committee members can add fall decorations around it.

**Derry Walker** advised committee he will reach out to Public Works and get back to members with an answer.

## 2. Discussion/Approval of Beautification Day

**Derry Walker** recommended rescheduling Clean-Up Day to November to ensure full committee participation, as it will be the final clean-up of the year.

**Kwadernica Rhea suggested** changing Beautification Day to November 8<sup>th</sup>.

## 3. Discussion/Approval of Decorating Intersections

**Kwadernica Rhea** informed the committee that, instead of decorating the intersections at Lake Drive and Forest Parkway, the decision was made to decorate the City Hall sign located behind the area where the scarecrows will be staged.



#### 4. Discussion/Hosting of Right Away Clean-up Projects

**Ann Keith** suggested collaborating with the Forest Park Pastor's Association when organizing future Beautification Days. She also inquired about the necessary steps the committee must take to participate in the 7 Cities Initiative for the year 2026.

**Lashawn Boykin** inquired about the volunteer database. She also inquired committee members be added to the emails sent out to volunteers.

#### 5. Discussion/update of Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative

**Derry Walker** suggested that committee members develop a detailed plan, including logistics and resources, outlining how the initiative will be implemented. He emphasized the importance of finalizing all details in advance to ensure a successful launch by Spring 2026.

**Kwadernica Rhea** expressed agreement with launching the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative in Spring 2026. She also suggested utilizing existing resources and possibly conducting a trial run focused on the neighbors identified by Ms. Ann and Ms. Lois who need assistance.

**Kwadernica Rhea** suggested that each committee member identify existing resources and services needed in their respective wards. She also recommended implementing a sign-in sheet for residents across the city who wish to participate in assisting their neighbors.

**Kwadernica Rhea** suggested each committee member take inventory on available existing resources and share during November meeting. She inquired about legalities that would come with launching initiative.

**Derry Walker** advised he would reach out to the City Attorney regarding a possible waiver and get back to committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Kwadernica Rhea motioned to adjourn meeting

Ann Keith seconded that motion. All votes were unanimous.