



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Beautification Commission Minutes
January 27, 2025, 3:00 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Shannon Wang
Lynne Wheeler
Jessica McConnell

ABSENT: Matthew Trollinger

TOWN STAFF: Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

1.1. Call to Order

Attendees, please use meeting courtesy. Virtual attendees are asked to mute microphones when joining the meeting. Participants may be muted by the Town Clerk and meetings will be recorded.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to view/listen to the discussion only. At their discretion, Keep La Plata Beautiful may allow participants to voice questions or provide comments on the topics under discussion. Written comments may be submitted via email to Legislative@townoflaplata.org.

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Meeting ID: 297 526 645 873

Passcode: 25iVMh

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Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from meeting on November 25, 2024.

Director Phipps stated that the minutes from the meeting on November 25, 2024, were not available for approval.

3. Matters of Discussion

3.1. Arts Workgroup (Wang)

Ms. Wang reported the following:

- Paint the Town with Pollinators event graphic
- The Firehouse mural is to be completed in early spring
- Crosswalk murals

3.1. Saint Mary's/Centennial Crosswalk

Ms. Wang and Director Phipps met with Danny Wood, Acting Director of Public Works, to establish preliminary plans for painting the intersection of Saint Marys Avenue and Centennial Street and the intersection of Saint Marys Avenue and Queen Anne St. One of the Sundays during the public school system's spring break would be preferable to mitigate disruption to traffic. Accessibility to Saint Marys Avenue and Centennial Street could still be provided through detour signage. Director Wood will coordinate with the La Plata Police Department. A local homeschool group has requested to help paint.

For further action by Director Phipps: Schedule public art panel to approve proposed art.

3.2. Bird City USA (Wheeler)

3.2. NatureFest (May 31, 2025)

Ms. Wheeler will conduct a Birding 101 workshop during Naturefest, May 31. Keep La Plata Beautiful and Polly the Pollinator will participate.

3.2. Paint the Town with Pollinators (June 14, 2025)

Six (6) local environmental groups will be invited to provide pollinator-related information and activities. The event will include a sidewalk chalk art mini-festival.

Planned participating organizations:

- Bonaterra - will donate native plant plugs
- Wild Ones
- Nurture Natives
- Port Tobacco River Conservancy
- Keep La Plata Beautiful

Action items:

- Director Phipps will check on the need for a permit for the banner
- Chalk Art: Plan on chalk for 15 registrants at \$10/registrant; Needs registration form; Chalk art will be on streetside sidewalk
- Ms. Wang to forward graphic to Ms. Wheeler for approval; Director Phipps to set up event on Town media channels

3.3. Litter Bees (McConnell)

Ms. McConnell reported on the following:

- The 2025 Community Appearance Index will be conducted on March 2. Participants should meet at Town Hall at 9:00 AM.

- Community Litter Pickups have been scheduled for April - November.

3.4. Community Development (Phipps)

In addition to the planned agenda items, Director Phipps reported on the following:

- The estimated total for additional trash cans through the Adopt-a-Spot program is \$5,234. As this amount is less than KLPB had originally approved, Director Phipps will go forward with ordering.
- The required twenty-five applications have been collected to proceed with the Keep La Plata Beautiful license plate order.
- The deadline for the next Town Notes is February 28.

3.4. Earth Day Inquiry

Director Phipps reported on the following:

- The Wills Group has inquired about an Earth Day volunteer event. Director Phipps will propose an cleanup event at the basketball courts at Phoenix Run.
- With two community volunteers, Director Phipps is developing a series of Community Roundtables similar to the Charles County Citizens Academy but with opportunities for interaction with and sponsorship by downtown businesses. The series is planned to run June - November 2025.
- By consensus, KLPB agreed to extend the deadline for Christ Church's community to May 31, 2025, to allow for spring planting.
- The estimated total for additional trash cans through the Adopt-a-Spot program is \$5,234. As this amount is less than KLPB had originally approved, Director Phipps will go forward with ordering.
- The required twenty-five applications have been collected to proceed with the Keep La Plata Beautiful license plate order.
- The deadline for the next Town Notes is February 28.

3.4. Community Roundtables

With two community volunteers, Director Phipps is developing a series of Community Roundtables similar to the Charles County Citizens Academy but with opportunities for interaction with and sponsorship by downtown businesses. The series is planned to run June - November 2025.

3.4. Christ Church Grant Extension to July 30, 2025

By consensus, KLPB agreed to extend the deadline for Christ Church's community to July 30, 2025, to allow for spring planting.

3.5. Other Business

- Proposed Eagle Scout Project at Bird City Pocket Park
 - Chris Wagon will identify suitable location
 - Should be painted purple to coordinate with Birdhouse Arch
 - Director Phipps will:
 - Check on possible need for permit

- Reach out to coordinate as beneficiary for Eagle Scout project application process

- Planned and Ongoing Projects (Chris Wagnon)
 - Identify a Pollinator Garden Trail
 - Include Town Hall, Bird City Pocket Park, Star Memorial Garden, Christ Church, Courthouse Courtyard, Train Station Museum
 - Add QR codes for interconnectivity
 - Additional plants will be added to existing gardens
- Tilghman Lake Park nature trail
 - Will work with local scout troops to create new trail on eastern ridge of park
- Ms. Wheeler will arrange for the gourds at the Train Station Museum to be removed for cleaning.

4. Matters of Information

4.1. Town Council Report

Councilman Trollinger was not available to report.

4.2. Staff Report

In addition to the scheduled agenda items, Director Phipps reported that there have been no applications for the vacancy on KLPB.

4.2. Firehouse Museum Update

LD Holmes Architects will conduct feasibility study to consider how the Firehouse can be opened for public access on both sides, allowing for a pass-through entrance.

4.2. Wills Memorial Park Trail and Amphitheater Update

The development of a contract for the design and build of a trail and amphitheater at Wills Memorial Park has resumed.

5. Adjourn

5.1. Adjournment

Chair McConnell adjourned the meeting at 3:47 PM.

Submitted by:

Kelly G. Phipps, Interim Town Clerk