



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
KEEP LA PORTE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF LA PORTE**

Members Present: Virginia Pierson-Turner, Chairperson; Erika Mendez-Gutierrez, Vice Chairperson; Members Peggy Antone, Travis Barnett, Leticia Thralls, Allison Vickery-Fowle, Tom Green, Brady Nance and prospective member Darrell Herrin.

Members Attending Remotely: None.

Members Absent: Martha Gillett (excused), Susie Burgess (excused), Michael Hanks (excused), Justin Gorashko (unexcused) and Joshua Lege (excused).

Staff Present: Johnny Morales, Emergency Management Coordinator; Shaun Lundy, Parks Superintendent; Andrew Brady, Assistant Public Works Director; Kayla O'Bryan, Special Events and Marketing Coordinator and other City staff as applicable.

**The Keep La Porte Beautiful Committee of the City of La Porte met on
March 17, 2026, at the City Hall Council Chambers,
604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 5:30PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER –** Chairperson Pierson-Turner called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.
- 2. CITIZEN COMMENT –** None.
- 3. APPROVE THE MINUTES –** Member Barnett moved and Member Vickery-Fowle seconded to approve the February 17, 2026, meeting minutes. The motion was adopted unanimously. The Committee noted that Member Justin Gorashko's absence from the previous meeting should be recorded as excused due to an incorrect email address, which has since been updated.
- 4. COMMITTEE CHARGE, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
 - 4.a Presentation and discussion regarding an update on the Wayfinding Signage Project scheduled for consideration by City Council. [Special Events & Marketing Coordinator Kayla O'Bryan]**

Kayla O'Brien presented an update on the City's wayfinding signage project funded through hotel-motel tax grants. The project focuses on directional signage for visitors and key attractions. Committee members discussed potential future additions, including smaller intersection signage and signage for City facilities such as City Hall and public safety buildings. Additional comments included opportunities to enhance visibility and usability for both residents and visitors.

4.b Presentation and discussion regarding upcoming events [Chairperson Virginia Pierson-Turner]

Vice Chairperson Mendez-Gutierrez provided updates on upcoming events: Spring Fest is scheduled for April 11th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Five Points Plaza. The Recycling Open House is scheduled for April 23rd from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Recycling Center. The Great American Cleanup is scheduled for May 9 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at multiple locations including Sens Road and Pelican Park. Committee members were encouraged to volunteer and assist with outreach efforts. Discussion included engaging the public, recruiting volunteers, and coordinating logistics for each event. The Committee emphasized the importance of community interaction and building a volunteer base.

4.c Presentation, discussion and possible action on updates from KLPB subcommittees [Chairperson Virginia Pierson-Turner]

Members provided updates regarding subcommittee activities. The Main Street Facade Enhancement Subcommittee discussed facade grants, business recognition programs, and coordination with ongoing Main Street revitalization efforts. Members expressed interest in aligning with broader City plans and expanding recognition programs in the future. The Parks and Natural Areas Subcommittee discussed opportunities to enhance green space, including potential environmental initiatives such as wetland conversion projects. The Monuments and Special Projects Subcommittee reported on beautification efforts along Fairmont Parkway and future plans for storm drain marker installations.

4.d Presentation, discussion, and possible action on updates from the Keep Texas Beautiful Research Ad Hoc Subcommittee. [Vice Chairperson Erika Mendez-Gutierrez]

Vice Chairperson Mendez-Gutierrez provided updates on Keep Texas Beautiful initiatives, including a pending Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate plaque, an upcoming educational webinar of the Keep Texas Beautiful Conference scheduled for May 12th-14th. A motion was made and approved to allocate funds for conference participation.

4.e Presentation and Discussion on Committee Updates: Potential Realignment and FYE 26-27 Budget Considerations [Chairperson Virginia Pierson-Turner]

The Committee discussed organizational and budget-related updates, including the proposed realignment of Keep La Porte Beautiful under the Parks Department for FY

2026–2027. Discussion included a proposed beautification budget of approximately \$500,000 and an operational budget of \$15,000, as well as the addition of a new parks staff position that will serve as the primary liaison for KLPB while providing critical capacity support to the Parks Marketing and Special Events division. The Committee also discussed considerations for a tree replacement policy in relation to future construction and beautification efforts.

5. COMMITTEE COMMENTS – Committee members discussed community concerns related to litter, ongoing cleanup efforts, and coordination with City departments. Staff noted that routine litter pickup is conducted regularly across major roadways and public areas through coordinated efforts between Public Works and Parks Departments.

6. ADJOURN – Without objection, Chairperson Pierson-Turner adjourned the meeting at 6:42PM.

Matt Daeumer, Assistant City Manager