



**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; Michael Hanks, Susie Burgess, Travis Barnett, Peggy Antone, Martha Gillett, Justin Gorashko

Members Attending Remotely: None

Members Absent: Frank Nance with Alternate 1, Leticia Thralls present in his absence.

Staff Present: Matt Deamuer, Assistant City Manager; Tiffaney Bradley, Special Projects & Communications Manager; Tim Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation; Andrew Brady, Assistant Director of Public Works

**The Keep La Porte Beautiful Committee of the City of La Porte met on
July 31, 2025, at the City Hall Council Chambers,
604 West Fairmont Parkway, La Porte, Texas, at 5:30 p.m.**

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Matt Deamuer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Election - Presentation, discussion, and possible action to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Keep La Porte Beautiful Committee.**

Peggy Antone nominated Virginia Pierson-Turner to serve as Chair; the motion was adopted. Travis Barnett nominated Erika Mendez-Gutierrez to serve as Vice Chair; the motion was adopted.

3. **CITIZEN COMMENT** - There were no comments.

4. **COMMITTEE CHARGE, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- 4.a. **Upcoming Meetings - Discussion and confirmation of future meeting schedule and frequency.**

Martha Gillett moved that the committee meet every third Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.; the motion was adopted.

- 4.b **Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate Discussion - Status update, discussion and possible action on the Committee's application for Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate status.**

Chair Pierson-Turner requested printed *Keep Texas Beautiful* binders for all members and that the *Keep Texas Beautiful* newsletter, along with Regional Training information and staff contact details, be emailed to all members.

Without objection, members Mendez-Gutierrez, Gillett, Burgess, and Thralls were appointed to an ad hoc committee to research other *Keep Texas Beautiful* affiliate facilities.

It was confirmed that members will complete *Keep Texas Beautiful* and Texas Open Meetings Act training.

4.c Priority Projects - Discussion and possible action for future Keep La Porte Beautiful Committee projects and initiatives.

Without objection, the Committee agreed to provide a quarterly report to the City Council.

Presentations from Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Code Enforcement, and Planning and Development will be scheduled at future meetings to give members a better understanding of each department's operations and responsibilities within the City of La Porte.

At the next committee meeting, Parks and Recreation will present budget considerations for both in-house and contracted landscaping options for the 2026 budget. In addition, each member will submit five priority project ideas to help guide the Committee's direction.

Vice Chairperson Mendez-Gutierrez proposed launching a media campaign to raise public awareness and engagement. Chairperson Pierson-Turner suggested recommending extended or improved hours for the Recycling Center. Member Thralls proposed the formation of a Junior Committee to involve local youth in beautification efforts.

5. ADJOURN – Without objection, Chair Pierson-Turner adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Tiffany Bradley
Special Projects & Communications Manager