

Keep Conyers–Rockdale Beautiful (KCRB) Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2026

Location: C.E. Steele Community Center

Time: 6:04 PM – 7:47 PM

Members Present

- Darlisssha Tillman-Sadler (Chair)
- Commissioner Tuwanya Smith
- Tommy Plummer
- Kurt Peters
- Deidre Somdah
- Anthony Pacheco
- Amanda Newcomb
- Marilyn Cooke

Staff Present:

- Christopher Causey, Staff Liaison

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuwanya Smith to approve the agenda. Tommy Plummer seconded. Motion passed.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Tuwanya Smith to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2026 meeting. Anthony Pacheco seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Budget Update

- Staff Liaison Christopher Causey presented the budget report.
- **Coca-Cola Grant:** Total award of \$5,000 has been fully received. First disbursement of \$3,500 was received in 2025; second and final disbursement of \$1,500 was received on March 25, 2026.
 - First shredding event costs: \$2,200.40 (truck: \$1,560; food: \$200.40; two sheriff deputies: \$440)
 - Second shredding event costs: \$2,054.52 (truck: \$1,560; food: \$54.52; two sheriff deputies: \$440)
 - Total Coca-Cola grant spending: \$4,254.92 | Remaining balance: \$745.08
- **KCRB General Budget:** Startup funding of \$2,400 was provided at reactivation (\$1,600 from the county; \$800 from the city). An additional \$3,800 was transferred from the Public Relations department when KCRB became its own entity.

- **Expenses to Date:** \$534.66 (includes Trello account: \$119.99; flyers: \$100; Amanda Newcomb reimbursement for shirts: \$36.18; Veterans Day parade registration: \$25; 10 KCRB polo shirts: \$163.49; shirt embroidery: \$90)
- **Current Budget Balance:** \$5,665.30
- A note was requested to specify the purpose of reimbursements in future budget documents.
- Staff will confirm with Chief Sanders whether membership contributions from the county and city are annual or one-time.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Adopt-a-Mile Program

- Two Adopt-a-Mile business partners are active. One has completed their first cleanup event; the second cleanup is scheduled for April.
- Staff will coordinate with CIT for trash pickup logistics.
- All council members are asked to submit at least one suggested cleanup location for the program list.
 - Suggested locations discussed: Underwood Road, Old Salem and Plunkett Road (current business partner route), Forest Villa, Glen Road, Almond Street
- Amanda Newcomb is pursuing an Adopt-a-Mile location within City of Conyers limits. The city is currently reviewing and updating its program.
- Anthony Pacheco will serve as the champion for securing an Adopt-a-Mile location on the city side.
- **Recognition criteria (previously approved):** 4 cleanups = KCRB Certificate of Recognition; 12 cleanups = signage recognition. Sign cost is approximately \$75–\$80 and will come from the KCRB budget.

B. Cultivate Initiative

- The council's current initiative has been renamed "Cultivate" and runs through June 30, 2026. It covers all environmental and beautification activities for this period.
- **City of Conyers Cleanup – Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10:00 AM–12:00 PM:** Kurt Peters and Anthony Pacheco will represent KCRB. Location: 1063 Green Valley Drive.
- **Heart and Paws Event – Saturday, April 18, 2026, 11:00 AM–3:00 PM:** KCRB is listed as a community partner on the flyer. Amanda Newcomb, Darlisssha Tillman-Sadler, and Marilyn Cooke will attend at Johnson Park.
 - Council members are asked to wear KCRB shirts and vests at both events.
- **Compost Workshop – Friday, April 24, 2026, 6:00 PM:** Location: UGA Extension Office. UGA will facilitate. Press release will be distributed; flyer will be posted on social media. Maximum 30 attendees.
 - Home Depot is being asked to donate compost bins for the event. If bins are donated, the first registrants will receive one at no cost.
 - Staff is working on adding an event registration form to the KCRB website.
 - Mr. George Kelecheck provided background on compost programs in DeKalb and Newton Counties as a model for future KCRB programming.

C. Publix Community Cleanup

- **Date: Thursday, April 23, 2026, 10:00 AM** | Location: Sigman Road corridor

- Golden State Foods is allowing KCRB to use their parking lot as the staging area. CIT truck coordination is in progress.
- Staff will ask Publix if they are willing to donate co-branded reusable shopping bags featuring both the Publix and KCRB logos as a partnership contribution.
- Council members should arrive by 9:30 AM to set up the tent and table.

D. Board of Commissioners Presentation

- **Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 6:00 PM** | Location: BOC Assembly Hall
- Council members are asked to wear KCRB shirts with brown or khaki pants.
- Members with edits or additions to the presentation should email them to staff for inclusion.

VI. New Business

A. Rivers Alive & Great American Cleanup

- Darlisssha Tillman-Sadler proposed purchasing 100 branded water bottles (50 per event) to give to volunteers at the Rivers Alive and Great American Cleanup events.
- Branded hand sanitizer was also suggested as a volunteer giveaway item.
- Staff will research costs for both items and email the council for review.
- **Great American Cleanup – June 1, 2026:** Pine Log Park will serve as the main hub for lunch, equipment distribution, and mobilization. Two to three additional cleanup locations will be selected. Staff will email location options for a council vote.

B. Cultivate Festival

- **Proposed Date: June 28, 2026**
- Amanda Newcomb suggested Legion Field (next to the VFW on Sigma Drive) as an alternative to Wheeler Park. The smaller venue would allow for a more focused event with fewer vendors.
- **Rockdale Farmers Market Partnership:** Mr. Kelecheck announced the Rockdale Farmers Market launches April 19, 2026. Sunday markets at Wheeler Park run 1:00–4:00 PM; Wednesday markets at Pinewell are also planned. He proposed a partnership with KCRB on June 28.
 - The council expressed interest in including demonstration tables (rain barrel assembly, composting, gardening 101) at the event.
 - Staff will connect with Leslie (farmers market coordinator) to explore partnership and vendor coordination.

C. School Recycling Initiative

- The plastic bag school recycling initiative has been postponed to the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

D. Big Rock Project

- The project area contains six crepe myrtles planted in honor of KCRB's founding executive director; one has been choked out by overgrowth and must be removed.
- Pro Cutters, CIT, and the UGA Extension Office have assessed the site. All agree that several overgrown trees must be removed to allow sufficient sunlight for a pollinator garden.
- UGA Extension will test the soil once trees are cleared to recommend appropriate plantings. Pollinator seeds from a prior wildflower event are already available at no cost.
- A quote of \$2,000 for tree removal was received from ANA Tree Service. The council will need to vote on whether to proceed once all members have reviewed the site.

- Stormwater and Parks and Recreation have committed to providing manpower support for planting and cleanup. Pro Cutters will assist with beautification once the area is cleared.
- **Action:** All council members are encouraged to visit the Big Rock site before the next meeting.

E. Swag and Equipment Needs

- Darlisssha Tillman-Sadler recommended the council purchase the following branded items:
 - KCRB pop-up tent
 - Water bottles (clip-on style for volunteer use)
 - Hand sanitizer
 - Folding table
- Staff will research pricing and report back.

F. Open Discussion – UGA Extension & Atlanta Regional Commission (Mr. Kelicheck)

- Mr. Kelicheck introduced Bethany Harris (UGA Griffin Campus), who is leading a resurgence of urban farming and gardening programming for the state.
- KCRB’s Soil Conservation District is partnering with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) through their Green Community Certification Program to help local governments implement sustainability measures.
- Jillian Porter-Willis (ARC Senior Planner) heads the program. The ARC partnership may help Rockdale County pursue a “Water First” county designation.
- Mr. Kelicheck will bring all partners together and present to the council at a future meeting.

VII. Administrative Items

A. Officer Elections

- Commissioner Smith reminded the council that officer elections must be held at the next regular meeting. Staff will email members ahead of time with the list of officer positions.

B. Beautification Program Signs – Special Meeting Vote Required

- Tommy Plummer reported that 50 yard signs for the Beautification Recognition Program can be produced for \$259.00 (includes stands).
- A formal vote on this expenditure is required. A special meeting will be held via Zoom to complete the vote so the purchase can be processed promptly.
- **Action:** Darlisssha Tillman-Sadler will email two proposed dates and times for the special Zoom meeting. Council members should watch for the email and respond promptly.

C. Rivers Alive Award

- KCRB has received a state award for its Rivers Alive cleanup. Christopher Causey will attend the awards luncheon in Atlanta on the council’s behalf to accept the recognition.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 – 6:00 PM (Regular Meeting)

Special Zoom Meeting: Date TBD – Vote on Beautification Signs (\$259.00)