



**Agenda**

West Columbia Beautification Foundation  
June 2, 2026 at 8:30 AM  
200 N. 12th Street  
West Columbia, SC 29169

---

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETING
  - 2.1. Approval of Minutes from Meeting held on May 5, 2026
3. PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS
4. PROGRESS REPORT
  - 4.1. Monthly Financial Report
  - 4.2. Taste of the River 2026 - Discussion and Update
5. OTHER BUSINESS
6. ADJOURNMENT

2 - 4

If special accommodations are needed to participate in public meetings, please contact the West Columbia City Clerk's office at **(803) 939-8608** or [jdowden@westcolumbiasc.gov](mailto:jdowden@westcolumbiasc.gov) at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting date.



**MINUTES**  
West Columbia Beautification Foundation  
May 5, 2026  
200 N. 12th Street  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
8:30 AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kathy Whetzel, Chairman  
Lainie Lewis, Vice Chairman  
Denise Bouknight  
Steve Cohen  
Steven Doar  
Richard Jones  
Bob Michalski

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Temus "Tem" Miles  
Jake Moore  
Connie Vaughn  
Mike Green  
Robin Jackson  
Anastasia Manos  
Chuck Underhill  
Jamie Hook, Secretary  
Holly Crawford  
David Kannaday  
Emory Bedenbaugh

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Anna Huffman  
Justin Wise

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

The agenda was posted at City Hall, on Facebook and Twitter, and emailed to The State, Free Times, Lexington County Chronicle, Cayce-West Columbia News, The Columbia Star, COLADaily.com, radio and television stations on April 30, 2026.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

Chair Kathy Whetzel called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m. A quorum was not present to conduct business.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR PREVIOUS MEETING**

2.1. Approval of Minutes from Meeting held on April 7, 2026  
Will be voted upon at June Meeting.

**3. PRESENTATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS**

3.1. Presentation Regarding Three Rivers Bridge Dinner 2026 - Erin Curtis, Executive Director  
Ms. Curtis introduced herself and explained the vision for the dinner. A non-profit was founded to solely run the dinner. The event was renamed to intentionally focus on the river, as that is and should be the event's focus.

- Sunday, October 25, 2026 from 3-8 pm. Anticipate 1200 attendees.
- Prisma Health is the title sponsor.
- Three beneficiaries are the same as last year. Focus on the river and the greening of our cities.

**West Columbia Beautification Foundation Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2026**

- Bridge Dinner is a “calling card” for West Columbia and Columbia. Columbia uses the event to recruit for Economic Development. Cap Gemini is in Columbia because of the event.
- Always in need of extra volunteers for the day of the event.
- Gervais Street Bridge now shuts down at 7 am.
- Has not asked for A-Tax funds this year but anticipates to apply in 2027.

Chair Kathy Whetzel went over current and recent past foundation projects to provide an overview to Ms. Curtis.

Richard Jones inquired how much the dinner has historically donated to the foundation, which has ranged from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

**4. PROGRESS REPORT**

**4.1. Monthly Financial Report**

A financial report was given as of March 31, 2026, \$184,414.71.

**4.2. Beautification Projects Update**

Mark Stanton, Director of Operations, informed everyone that landscaping was installed on April 10, 2026, for the tobacco store on the corner of 12th Street and Meeting Street.

Additionally, the Highway 1 median beautification project went out to bid the week of April 16, 2026. Bids are due May 18 and will be presented to council at the June 2, 2026 meeting. If approved, the bidder has 90 days to complete the project.

**4.3. Taste of the River 2026 Update**

Chair Kathy Whetzel picked up \$2,000 from Jake Moore as a sponsor for Irmo Arbor Day. Richard Jones provided \$1,000 from Safety for Sarah.

Chair Kathy Whetzel asked the entire committee to step up and obtain auction items.

Current auction items include:

GE Café Espresso Machine \$500 from Steve Cohen.

Two 6-ft-tall waterfowl sculptures from Denise Bouknight.

Lainie Lewis procured local artists to donate their work, including a hand-painted Jean Jacket from Michael Krajewski,

Currently, there are 14 confirmed restaurants: Black Rooster, Blue Marlin, Breads and Such, Brickhouse Gourmet Coffee & Tea Co., Brookland Banquet & Conference Center, Cafe Strudel, Crave, Freshe Poke, Handel’s Homemade Ice Cream, Hite’s BBQ, The Hollow, Ikie Lu Record Club, Nick’s House of Pizza, and Signature Catering.

Finally, there was a discussion about adding vacation/trips to the auction list to help expand participation.

Reminder - Please deliver any auction items to Justin Wise, Events Coordinator.

**West Columbia Beautification Foundation Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2026**

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kathy Whetzel adjourned the meeting at 9:36 a.m.

The next Beautification Foundation meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. in the New Brookland Room at City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Anna Huffman  
Beautification Foundation

If special accommodations are needed to participate in public meetings, please contact the West Columbia City Clerk's office at **(803) 939-8608** or [jdowden@westcolumbiasc.gov](mailto:jdowden@westcolumbiasc.gov) at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting date.