

Minutes
Biloxi Beautification Commission
Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2026; 11 a.m.
Biloxi City Hall, City Council room

In attendance

- **Commissioners:** Stacey Eleuterius Barber, Susan Cain, Vincent Creel, James McClendon and Connie Rockco. Roll taken by Secretary Creel, substituting for absent Chair Lara Bernich Alley; quorum established.
- **Others present:** Councilmen Paul Tisdale, Anthony Marshall, and Jamie Creel. Three members of the public, including Savanna Mattina, and media.

Agenda approved, with proper motion, seconded, 6-0 vote.

Minutes of Dec. 12, 2025 meeting approved without revision. Proper motion, seconded, 6-0.

Comments from commissioners

- Commissioner Creel welcomed two new members: Connie Rockco of Ward 6 and James McClendon of Ward 2.
- Commissioner McClendon had already volunteered at the recent Point Cadet cleanup. Commissioner Rockco, former Harrison County supervisor and the state's first county beautification director, provided post-Katrina master plans as well as a children's book about beautification, as ideas.
- Keep Biloxi Beautiful Facebook page has more than 500 Followers, reported Commissioner Creel, and city has established biloxi.ms.us/beautification as location for agendas and minutes from meetings, along with other helpful information.

Comments from Public

None.

Business

- **Keep America Beautiful.** Tabled resolution recommending to City Council that Biloxi become an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Tabled pending more information. Commissioner Barber to have report at next meeting on cost and benefits of Biloxi becoming an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful or Keep Mississippi Beautiful ("Keep Biloxi Beautiful"). Commissioner Rockco questioned whether cities in Harrison County were not already members previously.
- **Comprehensive Beautification Plan.** Commissioner Creel suggested plan would include general, overall recommendations and identify hearty, low-maintenance native species (designed to help guide property owners). Plan could also include 10 to 12 high profile public locations, with suggested improvements and conceptual designs. Businesses, individuals, groups could adopt location, after committing to plan.

Commissioner Rockco suggested copies be made of existing plans for guidance. Commissioner Creel to compile. Commissioner Barber suggested that as part of comprehensive beautification efforts, recommended projects should be more than anti-litter programs and flower beds, but should involve making the community more inviting in general.

- **Fred Haise.** Commissioners had favorable comments on an idea that Commissioner Creel suggested as first Beautification project: A re-christening of the area around the Fred Haise statue as Fred Haise Landing & Lighthouse Pier. Project could include having artist enhance the existing 144-foot Moonwalk and unveil improvements and new signage on Saturday, April 11, 2026, 54th anniversary of Apollo 13 liftoff, and as part of the nation's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Commissioner Creel was authorized to assemble potential budget and funding sources and report to commission, which would then vote on whether to present recommendation and plan to City Council. Administration and county also would be notified of proposed work in the meantime.
- **Formal adoption program,** with minimum standards, etc. Commissioner Rockco suggested following path of previous agreements from Harrison County Beautification Commission. She would obtain samples from county.
- **Christmas decorations.** Tabled pending return of Chair Alley.
- **Calendar of Events.** Harrison County Beautification Commission is drafting its calendar of events for 2026. Commissioner Cain suggested Biloxi use county calendar as foundation, teamwork, cooperation.

Next meeting date: Jan. 21, 11 a.m. Biloxi City Hall. Open to public.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

FYI: 2026 scheduled meetings: Jan. 7 and 21, Feb 4 and 18, March 4 and 18, April 1 and 15, May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17. July 1 and 15, August 5 and 19, Sept. 2 and 16, Oct. 7 and 21, Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16.

Website: biloxi.ms.us/beautification

Facebook: facebook.com/keepbiloxibeautiful

Submitted by Vincent Creel, secretary, Biloxi Beautification Commission