Darlington Beautification Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: January 21, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

Attendance

Present: Peggy Cohen, Becky Ishman, Roxie Gregg, and Hunter Thomas

Absent: Vivian Jackson, Linda Beckham, and Letha Martin

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on September 17, 2025, were reviewed and approved unanimously by all members present.

Financial Report

Hunter Thomas provided the financial report, informing the board that the committee was allocated a budget of $7,000.00 for the current fiscal year. In October 2025, the committee spent $248.00 on supplies for painting the fence at Hampton Street Park. After this expenditure, the remaining budget stands at $6,752.00 for the rest of the fiscal year.

Administrative Update

Kendric Hollarman is serving as the current Chief of Streets and Sanitation. It was also reported that Lenessa Hawkins, the City Manager, was terminated by a vote of the City Council on January 16, 2026.

Garden Club Update

The Garden Club has successfully completed the painting of the fence at Hampton Street Park.

Pride of Darlington Award

The committee voted to present the Pride of Darlington Award to East & Calla – Boutique and Salon. Peggy Cohen and Hunter Thomas will visit Barnes of All Trades in Lamar to arrange for the fabrication of a new Pride sign. The new sign will feature a base to allow for placement in front of businesses without grass.

New Projects

Replacement of Entrance Signs

The board agreed to prioritize the replacement of the four entrance signs to Darlington, as the current signs are cracking. Barnes of All Trades in Lamar, SC, the company that originally produced the signs, has been contacted by Becky Ishman and Peggy Cohen for quotes. NASCAR will not be contributing to the

cost of the new signs. Hunter Thomas and Peggy Cohen will meet with Barnes of All Trades to review the quotes, giving top priority to replacing the sign on the 52 Bypass, which is currently in the worst condition.

Light Pole Frames

The board unanimously approved the purchase of five additional light pole frames to replace those that are broken.

Rose Garden Sprinklers

Repairs to the sprinkler system at the Rose Garden on Pearl Street will be deferred indefinitely. This decision will remain in effect until a new City Manager is appointed and the City Council determines the future of the now-empty Council on Aging building, as the power supply to the sprinkler system must be relocated.

Spring Cleanup Day

Due to low community turnout in recent years, the board decided not to hold Spring Cleanup Day this year. Instead, Hunter Thomas will ask Kendric, the manager of Streets and Parks, for a small project that could encourage greater community involvement.

Unfinished Business

The committee discussed the condition of several black pots on the square and at Trinity Methodist on Pearl Street, which currently contain dead plants. The committee voted unanimously to remove all pots from the square. However, the committee also approved exploring the use of metal statuary in the pots. Hunter Thomas and Peggy Cohen will discuss this possibility with Barnes of All Trades in Lamar, SC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2026.

Minutes Prepared By: The minutes of this meeting were recorded and prepared by Peggy Cohen, President. Any corrections or amendments should be submitted prior to the next scheduled meeting for approval and inclusion in the official record.