Darlington Beautification Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: Tuesday April 14, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:11 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 January 21, 2026, were reviewed and approved unanimously by all members present.

Financial Report

Hunter Thomas provided the financial report, informing the board that budget fund for the year is currently $6,752:00.

Administrative Update

Kendric Hollarman is serving as the Chief of Streets and Sanitation. The current City Manager is former mayor Ronnie Ward until a new manager is hired.

Garden Club Update

The Garden Club has successfully completed the spring décor for the public walkway on the downtown Square.

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 visited the Barnes of All Trades in Lamar and arranged for the fabrication of 2 new Pride signa. One new sign will feature a base to allow for placement in front of businesses without grass. Two new signs were designed and by unanimous vote were approved by the committee for purchase and expenditure of $900:00

New Projects

Replacement of Entrance Signs 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. We are awaiting quotes for replacing the sign on 52 Bypass, which is currently in the worst condition.

Light Pole Frames

The board had unanimously approved the purchase of additional light pole frames to replace those that are broken. An email was sent to the company Downtown Decorations, but no reply has been received.

Hunter will check with Kendrick Hollarman to determine how many brackets are broken. Once the amount has been determined. The company will be contacted and an order placed.

Rose Garden Sprinklers

Repairs to the sprinkler system at the Rose Garden on Pearl Street were discussed and Hunter will contact a city approved electrician to determine the cost of moving the control box to a power pole at the adjacent Cain's tennis courts.

New Business

Danielle Keen from the Pilot club and Chamber of Commerce was introduced. She has a proposal to purchase flags (using Chamber and Pilot club funds) for the Sweet Potato festival using the flagpole brackets we currently have, the board voted to give approval for this project. The flags are to be made by the Sign Zone in Hartsville and possibly placed on the brackets by the store owner Brantley Gainey.

Danielle will also approach storefronts on the square to see if owners would volunteer to oversee watering and maintenance of the pots on the square.

A proposal was made to place artwork in the 13 pots around the square. The metal stakes can be purchased for $85 dollars piece from Barnes of All Trades. Proposed artwork included 1) SC state bird 2) State flower 3) Pineapple 4) Darlington oak 5) cotton6) Pearl of Pee Dee 7) Darlington in circle 8) Race car 9) American flag 10) outline of state 11) moon and palmetto tree. The committee will await this purchase until we get a report from Danielle, determining any interest from storefronts on maintaining the pots.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 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.