

Commission Members:

Lissa Leege, Helen Rosko, Jill Gerig, David Warren

Don Armel, Jon Cook, Victor Dickey, Andrew Michaud, Alyson Prude

Ex officio: Shari Barr (city council), Mak Perry (student), Marcos Trejo (city liaison)



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STATESBORO, GEORGIA 30459-0348

AGENDA

Greener Boro Commission: 6:00 PM Thursday, March 6, 2025

City Council Chambers

- I. Call to order
 - GB present: Lissa, Jon, Helen, Alyson, David, Andrew, Jill, Victor, Don
 - Ex-officio present: Marcos, Shari, Mak
 - Guests: Holly Sawyer-KSBB
- II. Approval of minutes from Feb. 6, 2025 - Jon motioned to approve, Andrew seconded
- III. Old Business:
 - A. Report back r.e. bike maps and signage meeting w/city (Andrew, Don, Jill)
 1. Requested meeting with David Moyer on Monday, March 10. A specific list of roads where signage/sharrows is needed will be discussed along with other ideas for connectivity
 - B. City herbicide use
 1. vote to approve draft report to city with recommendations for alternatives to herbicides/pesticides (Jon)
 - a. Victor motioned to approve, David seconded
 - b. Jon will forward the document to Marcos
 - c. We briefly discussed whether the sale of these chemicals should be banned in the city limits. We decided that the best course of action for GB is to educate the public about the harmfulness of these chemicals.
 2. brief discussion of chemicals used in water (David)
 - a. Fluoride in water supply - is it harmful to humans? Very small amounts are added, but one study suggests that ingesting it results in lower IQs in children. More research needs to be done. There appear to be more advantages than disadvantages to keeping fluoride in the water. Link to article from Johns Hopkins
<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/why-is-fluoride-in-our-water#:~:text=The%20fluoride%20in%20our%20water%20has%2>

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C. Resilience Workshop April (18 or 11 TBD – Helen, Lissa)

1. Meeting took place to discuss what stakeholders can do to help with a resiliency plan. Still looking for funding. Next meeting will be in April.

IV. New Business:

A. City and homeowner landscaping (Alyson, Don)

1. Encouraging tree planting to replace trees lost in recent storms and discourage cutting of mature trees
 - a. How do we do this? Educate homeowners of the fact that mature trees increase the value of home. Shari suggested that we collaborate with the tree board. The tree board offers a reimbursement program to encourage homeowners to plant trees on their property.
2. Encourage alternatives to grass lawns for city and homeowners - particularly groundcover alternatives and edible plants
 - a. Low growth plants - Blue rug juniper, asiatic jasmine, dwarf mondo. These types of plants would work best on slopes where it's already difficult to mow the grass or in areas where grass is not needed
3. How?
 - a) Short, informational message that we could post different places
 - (1) Social media
 - (2) Info sheets for tabling
 - (3) Send to homeowners' associations
 - (4) Promote Xavier Deckard's brochure through Tree Board and KSBB

B. Revisit Collaboration/Partnership with KSBB (RecycleFest, GreenFest, Greener Boro Business, etc. – Holly Sawyer)

1. KSBB is close to filling the coordinator position - GreenFest still on hold
2. KSBB is planning litter cleanups in areas of Statesboro (other than Little Lotts creek). GB agreed to help promote these events

C. Reducing waste during move in/move out periods - Mak

1. Sort through waste and keep items that could be reused/recycled/donated
2. Partner with Sustain Southern to help with the process

V. Adjournment - Victor motioned to adjourn, Helen seconded

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Mission: *Continue to grow a resilient, welcoming and healthy Statesboro in which wise planning meets the clean air, water and other livability needs of all, including future generations.*