

**MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
Ben Robertson Community Center
November 7, 2024
3:30 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Vice-Chair Ricky Stewart called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.
Committee Members present: Building Services (Madeline Nagy), Building Maintenance (Robbie Balenger), Communications (Rebecca Graham & Rachel Mikell), Kennesaw Downtown Development (Miranda Taylor), Parks & Recreation (Bill McNair and Elizabeth Weaver), Police (Kevin Mitchell, Rick Shumpert, and David Buchanan), Public Works (Dave Wilson), Smith-Gilbert Gardens (Vanita Kewani), Southern Museum (Kamilah McElwee). Mike Everhart with the Kennesaw Business Association was also in attendance.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A. Approval of the October 3, 2024, meeting minutes

David Buchanan moved to approve the October Events Committee Meeting minutes. Elizabeth Weaver seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Announcements/ Public Comment

This discussion was held at the end of the meeting before adjournment.
Mike Everhart with the Kennesaw Business Association (KBA) presented information for the use of the public parking lot beside 1885 Kennesaw on Main Street for an Alive After 5 event on November 19, 2024. This will be an outdoor event with the KBA providing tables and chairs for use. The event time is 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with clean up complete by 8 p.m. 1885 will be catering the event and all city employees are invited. Questions from staff followed. There will be no tents. A DJ will provide music for the event. Signs should be posted the day before the event to inform the public that the parking lot will be closed on November 19. The lot should be blocked off in the morning to ensure that there are no cars there during the event.

4. Old Business

A. **Review: Taste of Kennesaw**

B. **November 9 - Kennesaw Concert Series**

G Clef and the Playlist and the Georgia Symphony Orchestra Jazz Ensemble
Parks & Recreation Director Bill McNair advised that this was an afternoon concert with

two bands providing jazz music. The concert should be over by 5 p.m.

5. New Business

A. November 15/16 & 22/23- Smith-Gilbert Garden

Children's Play in partnership with KSU at Swift Cantrell Park

Education & Exhibits Manager Vanita Keswani provided information for Opossum and the Season Stone scheduled for November 15, 16, 22 and 23. Due to scheduled construction at Smith-Gilbert Gardens, Opossum and the Season Stone was organized for Swift Cantrell Park. There will be college students in costume. The tickets are free with registration, and there should be about 100 viewers per show. At the November 16th 3 p.m. performance there will be a food truck and live music. Discussion held. Ms. Keswani advised there was no need for traffic control. There is a need for additional trashcans, which should be moved to the curb for Republic to pick up. Director of Communication and Engagement Becca Graham inquired about a mobile vending permit for the food truck.

B. December 7 – A Day with Santa

Annual Parade & Festival

Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation Elizabeth Weaver provided information for A Day with Santa. December 7 - A Day with Santa begins with breakfast at the Ben Robertson Community Center, the festival begins at 1 p.m. on Main Street, the parade begins at 2 p.m., and the festivities continue until 6 p.m. when the tree lighting is scheduled. Santa will be at the City Hall Council Chambers until 7 p.m. Parks & Rec is still taking applications for the festival and parade. Drop off for bands/kids is at Kennesaw First Baptist Church (KFBC). Discussion held. Kennesaw Mountain High School will have the students and equipment on buses to park in the KFBC lot. North Cobb High School students will be meeting at the school, then will carpool and park at KFBC. Ms. Weaver advised there is no need for a drop and hold as the students will be in place early. There will be activities in the plaza behind City Hall (on Watts Drive) including letters to Santa, milk and cookies, and crafts.

C. 2025 Calendar

Review of Events

Calendars for Parks & Recreation, Smith-Gilbert Gardens, the Southern Museum, the Kennesaw City Cemetery and Economic Development were reviewed. Specific events discussed:

- June 14 Smith-Gilbert Gardens Music & Monarchs is the same date as Parks & Recreation Concert Series.
- June 14 is the Saturday before Father's Day which may not be the best day for a concert.
- December 6 Smith-Gilbert Gardens Evening Garden Hours is the same date as Parks & Recreation A Day with Santa.
- June 19 Southern Museum Mommy & Me class on Juneteenth when City offices are closed.
- The Taste of Kennesaw is generally held the first Saturday of November;

therefore, the 2025 ToK should occur on November 1st.

- Big Shanty is generally held the last weekend of spring break; therefore, the 2025 Big Shanty should occur on April 12th & 13th.
- The Holiday Market dates may change to coincide with the Taste of Kennesaw.

Becca Graham advised that Dr. Jeff Drobney would like more use of the amphitheater.

6. Adjourn

Miranda Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 p.m. Robbie Balenger seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion was approved unanimously.