

**MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF KENNESAW
City Hall Training Room
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)
August 7, 2025
3:30 PM**

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

Interim Chair Robbie Balenger (Building Maintenance) called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Committee members present: Rachel Mikell (Communications), Miranda Taylor (Economic Development), Bill McNair (Parks & Recreation), Kevin Mitchell, David Buchanan & Andrew Woodard (Police), David Wilson (Public Works), Vanita Keswani (Smith-Gilbert Gardens), Scott Banks (Building Services) and Kamil McElwee (Southern Museum).

Guests present: Lea Alvarez (City Clerk), Lewis Bramlett (Cemetery Preservation Commission), Andrew Bramlett (Cemetery Preservation Foundation), Nick Blankenship (Kennesaw Downtown Merchants Association), and Councilmember Madelyn Orochena.

2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Bill McNair moved to approve the July 3, 2025, Events Committee meeting minutes. Scott Banks seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

3. Announcements/ Public Comment

4. Old Business

A. Candy Crawl Update

A new agenda item was added to provide an updated application for the Candy Crawl event. Miranda Taylor shared that the event will be a collaboration between Kennesaw Parks & Recreation and the Kennesaw Downtown Merchants Association (KDMA). KDMA will host the Candy Crawl portion, featuring trick-or-treating as usual, while the festival—including games, bounce houses, and other activities—will take place in the Main Street Plaza and adjacent City parking lot. The event will run from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM, concluding at 6:00 PM, with attendees encouraged to attend Kennesaw Parks & Recreation’s movie event at the United Bankshares Amphitheater later that night. The application included a request for road closures on Cherokee Street from Big Shanty Road to Main Street and Main Street from J.O. Stephenson Avenue to Summers Street. Kevin Mitchell suggested the closure be extended to Lewis Street, and all attendees agreed with the recommendation.

Lewis Bramlett raised concerns about parking for the Life in the Cemetery event; Miranda responded that the City Hall lot, the Revival lot and other nearby parking options would be available. Miranda Taylor also stated that she would cover hard road closure costs, and KDMA would pay for off-duty police officers.

Bill McNair moved to approve the event with the contingency that the proposed road closures be presented to Mayor and Council at their August 25, 2025, City Council Work Session. Scott Banks seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

5. New Business

A. August 8 - BASSH

A fun-filled networking event featuring friendly competition, team games, and community connection.

Parks staff confirmed awareness of the upcoming event scheduled for August 8. The event is consistent with previous years and follows the standard format.

Kevin Mitchell moved to approve the BASSH event. Kamil McElwee seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

B. September 18 - Interfaith Peace Breakfast

Discussion on fostering collaboration between faith and community leaders to promote peace and unity within the community.

Madelyn Orochena presented an update on the Interfaith Peace Breakfast, an invite-only event. Honeysuckle Biscuit & Bakery has generously offered to cater, Apotheos Roastery will sponsor the coffee, and Patricia Hill Color Studio will provide program printing. The event date has been secured by Kennesaw Parks & Recreation. Madelyn will send Chair Marty Hughes the contact list and has requested audio and other logistical support. Officer David Buchanan has volunteered to attend the event.

Kevin Mitchell moved to approve the Interfaith Peace Breakfast. Kamil McElwee seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

C. September 24 - Hispanic Heritage Celebration

An evening celebrating Kennesaw's Latin community with authentic food from various countries, lively music, and cultural dancing.

Officer David Buchanan presented the Hispanic Heritage Celebration to the committee. The event will feature multiple tables representing different countries, along with music and food. Kennesaw Parks & Recreation has been informed of the building requirements, and Officer Buchanan confirmed that no audio or visual support is needed from the department.

Miranda Taylor moved to approve the Hispanic Heritage Celebration. Dave Wilson

seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

D. October 4 - Cemetery Clean-Up Day

A community volunteer event dedicated to cleaning headstones and beautifying the historic Kennesaw City Cemetery.

Lea Alvarez presented the event, noting that it is consistent with previous years. The only needs identified are trash removal and water service at the cemetery.

Kevin Mitchell moved to approve the Cemetery Clean Up Day. Miranda Taylor seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

E. November 2 - Veteran's Day Flag Placement

Annual event honoring veterans by placing flags on their graves in remembrance and gratitude.

Lea Alvarez presented the Veteran's Day Flag Placement. No resources from the City or marketing are needed.

Miranda Taylor moved to approve the Veteran's Day Flag Placement. Vanita Keswani seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

F. November 30 - Lights of Joy

A walk-through holiday light display featuring over 1.2 million synchronized lights set to music.

Robbie Balenger presented the Lights of Joy event and noted that the \$100 application fee is still outstanding. All required permits have been submitted. Kevin Mitchell requested to postpone the vote to the next meeting to allow for further discussion regarding public safety concerns.

Miranda Taylor moved to postpone the application to the September 4, 2025, Events Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. Kevin Mitchell seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

6. Adjourn

Kevin Mitchell moved to adjourn at 3:58 p.m. Bill McNair seconded the motion. Vote taken: motion unanimously approved. Motion passed.

Rachel Mikell