

**MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE MEETING  
CITY OF KENNESAW  
City Hall Training Room  
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)  
February 5, 2026  
3:30 PM**

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**1. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Chair Marty Hughes (City Manager's Office) called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Committee members present: Rachel Mikell & Rebecca Graham (Communications), Miranda Taylor (Economic Development), Bill McNair (Parks & Recreation), David Buchanan, Andrew Woodard & Ricky Shumpert (Police), Ricky Stewart (Public Works), Anna Trapp (City Manager's Office), Vanita Keswani (Smith-Gilbert Gardens), Scott Banks (Building Services), Robbie Balenger (Building Maintenance) and Tracy Shehab (Southern Museum).

Guests present: Lea Alvarez (City Clerk) and Bill Watson from JRM Management Group.

**2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

A. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Robbie Balenger moved to approve the December 4, 2026, Events Committee meeting minutes. Scott Banks seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Vote taken and motion unanimously approved.

**3. Announcements/ Public Comment**

Chair Marty Hughes noted an expedited events application submitted for a group to hold a protest at Swift-Cantrell Park on January 30. He stated that the protest was well organized and had followed the appropriate application and approval channels.

**4. Old Business**

**5. New Business**

A. April 18 & 19, 2026 - Big Shanty Festival - Community festival with arts & crafts, food, entertainment and sponsors.

Chair Marty Hughes advised the committee of an addition to the Events Committee agenda. Bill Watson, representing JRM, presented information regarding the Kennesaw Big Shanty Festival scheduled for April 18 and 19. Mr. Watson discussed several aspects of the event, including that the festival will celebrate its 50th year, with the anniversary theme incorporated throughout the event; the use of directional signage to assist attendees in locating vendors; plans to utilize the Amphitheater for musical performances, with larger groups performing on the stage; and a request for road

closures to begin at 5:00 a.m., consistent with previous years. Marty Hughes noted that the road closure request would be presented at the February 9 Council Work Session.

Ricky Stewart inquired about the number of garbage trucks needed for the event. Bill Watson stated that he would like to review the size of the trucks before determining the final number. Mr. Stewart indicated that five trucks would be accounted for.

Chair Marty Hughes presented a motion to accept the Kennesaw Big Shanty Festival. Bill McNair moved to approve, and Miranda Taylor seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- B. May 2, 2026 - Decoration Day- Families are invited to help clean gravesites and enjoy a guided tour

Lea Alvarez presented the Decoration Day event at the Kennesaw City Cemetery. The Cemetery Preservation Commission requested the event be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This is the same event held in previous years. The only requests from the City were for trash service and water from Public Works. Lea Alvarez also noted the need for tables and chairs from Parks & Recreation. Bill McNair noted that the event would not interfere with the Kennesaw Parks & Recreation concert scheduled for that evening.

Ricky Stewart moved to approve the request, and David Buchanan seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- C. May 16, 2026 - Art Blooms Downtown Flower Walk - Participants will visit Downtown Kennesaw businesses to collect flowers and build their own bouquet, with a small artisan market and plaza activities along the way.

Miranda Taylor presented the 2026 Art Blooms Flower Walk in Downtown Kennesaw. She explained that attendees will purchase tickets in advance and check in at a tent in the Downtown Plaza, where they will receive a punch card and a vessel for collecting flowers. Attendees will then visit participating businesses to receive flowers, culminating in a completed bouquet. Miranda Taylor also noted the request to include a small vendor market in the Downtown Plaza. The only request made was for the provision of trash cans.

Ricky Shumpert requested that Ms. Taylor notify the Kennesaw Police Department of the number of tickets sold so the department can be aware of any potential concerns.

Scott Banks moved to approve the request, and Ricky Shumpert seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- D. May 16, 2026 - Main Street Cruise In - Community car show to fundraise and raise awareness for Special Olympics Georgia

David Buchanan presented the Main Street Cruise In event. He noted that this is the event's fourth year and that it will be held at Kennesaw First Baptist Church. The only request was for Public Works to provide barricades and assist with signage.

Miranda Taylor moved to approve the request, and Vanita Keswani seconded. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously approved.

- E. June 6, 2026 - House of Hope Outreach Ministry - Evangelism Outreach from a local church

Marty Hughes presented the House of Hope Outreach Ministry event application. He stated that the application listed the event location as the parking lot at the intersection of Moon Station Road and Main Street. Mr. Hughes suggested relocating the event to Commemorative Park. It was noted that June 6 also coincides with the Summer Sun Run 5K and the Outdoor Movie Series. Ricky Shumpert requested that the vote be postponed so the Kennesaw Police Department could further review the event. Marty Hughes confirmed that the event would be contained within Commemorative Park and that all park rules, including restrictions on amplified sound, would be followed.

## **6. Adjourn**

Miranda Taylor noted that the March pop-up event will not take place and that resources have been reallocated to other Downtown events. Chair Marty Hughes reminded committee members to add their 2026 events to the shared calendar.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

*Rachel Mikell*