



[Alexandria Beautification Commission](#) (ABC) April Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 10, 2025 – 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Oswald Durant Center | Alexandria, VA

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Present in person: Eleanor Trice (Chair), Liz Gelfer (Vice Chair), Kelsey Pramik (Secretary), Russ Bailey, Kevin Fisher, Alexandra Garza, Felicia Hackett, Sarah Hill, Sara Kohn, Kenneth Krupa, Oscar Mendoza, Laura Norfolk, Eleanor Quigley, Emily Swaim

Present via phone: Alisa Wong

Excused absence: Daniya Tamendarova

Also present: ABC intern, Harlow Barbic; Harlow's father; and a representative of the Del Ray Citizens Association

1. Welcome new members

- a. Eleanor T welcomed new members Alexandra Garza & Sarah Hill; she also introduced the ABC's intern Harlow Barbic

2. Vote to approve March meeting minutes

- a. *Motion to approve by Eleanor Q, Seconded by Sara; Passed unanimously*

3. Upcoming Events

- a. Eleanor T and Liz reviewed several upcoming events, including:
 - i. The Native Roots Landscaping Initiative which takes place on Tuesday, April 22 (Earth Day) from about 7:45 am – 2 pm at J Adams Elementary/Early Childhood Center (ECC)
 - 1. They discussed the sourcing of native plants from Nature by Design, Earth Sangha & Greenstreet Gardens - and commended Kevin for his design
 - ii. The Del Ray GardenFest which takes place Sun, April 27 from noon – 4 pm at Nicholas Colsanto baseball field, 2600 Mount Vernon Ave

1. Emily volunteered to assist with event breakdown
- iii. A Native Plants seminar on Sat, April 26 at 11 am at Beatley Library
 1. This takes place the same day as a major native plant sale at a church; ABC members discussed going there before the library event to distribute flyers.
- iv. Planning for Alexandria250
 1. Which includes working with the city to plant red, white, and blue native plants; considering an award for residents who use red, white, and blue plants; a craft beer festival; tall ships going from New Orleans to Boston, with a stop in Alx; and a Revels concert by the Bicentennial Tree.
- v. The Tree Equity Program
 1. Russ and Liz are working with the Office of Housing to identify areas that need trees, with plans to kick off in the fall with 25 native trees from the City.
 2. Russ asked for a commitment for trees to be planted in the fall; Oscar agreed and pointed out that July 1 begins a new budget for the City of Alexandria.
 3. The Eisenhower Avenue planting and Gateway plantings will also happen this fall.
4. **Reports from each subcommittee**
 - a. Kelsey shared a few updates from the Awards subcommittee:
 - i. Nominations are officially open for the 2025 Beautification Awards
 - ii. She asked members of the ABC to share with garden clubs and other neighborhood groups they are a part of.
 - iii. **Sat, July 12 is the new date for the van tour**
 - b. Emily reported on updates from the Education subcommittee. She proposed that each subcommittee have one set column each month. ABC members agreed.
 - i. The ABC also discussed potential ways to showcase native plant cuttings at the upcoming Beatley Library lecture.
 - c. The Advocacy Committee discussed several outstanding items:
 - i. Kevin has mostly been working on the native plantings at John Adams
 - ii. Eleanor Q listened in on the City's meeting on gas blowers, which contained voices both in favor and against. Some of the major concerns shared included costs and ability to charge the equipment. An active group discussion followed. City staff continue to formulate the timeline.
 - iii. Eleanor Q also asked if we should weigh in on the proposed funding cuts to the Office of Climate Action. After much discussion, the ABC decided not to offer written commentary.
5. **Discussion and vote on bylaws**
 - a. No members of the ABC had any comments on the proposed [bylaws updates](#).
 - i. *Motion to approve by Kelsey; Seconded by multiple members; Passed unanimously*
6. **Other updates**

- a. Oscar indicated the Natural Resource Managers will start on Mon, April 28. Eleanor T gave quick updates on a few elements, including the Fort Ward arborist memorial, and the Bicentennial tree descriptive sign (almost complete) & tree website.
- b. Kelsey distributed map zone assignments; ABC members were assigned pairs and are asked to work together by June 15 to complete review of their zones

The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.