

August 19, 2025

Beautification Meeting *Volunteer trash pickup feedback, route adjustments, and planning next events*

Discussion:

- 1. Recap of Volunteer Day with SIU Students** The group discussed the event on Saturday where approximately 30 students volunteered, despite 50 having originally signed up. They collected about 40 bags of trash in hot and humid weather. Some participants struggled with directions, highlighting the need for team leaders on each route. Nonetheless, the event was deemed successful given the quantity of trash collected.
- 2. Challenges and Lessons Learned** Several participants noted the heat and traffic as obstacles. It was suggested that future volunteer events with large groups either start earlier or be scheduled for cooler months (spring or fall). Team leaders should accompany volunteers to keep them on track with designated routes. The group identified heavily littered areas, including the retention pond by Starbucks, which requires more frequent pickups.
- 3. Future Beautification Plans** The next monthly pickup event is planned for September 13, 2025. The team expects cooler weather, a simpler route plan, and a strong turnout, similar to the previous gathering. Members also discussed creating “thank you” gift bags to acknowledge volunteers, using a Thrivent grant to fund snacks and possibly new gloves or pickers.
- 4. Supply Needs and Signage** Mark purchased around 40+ pairs of gloves before the SIU event, though the students brought their own supplies. Reflective vests have dwindled, so more will be purchased through Amazon. The pickers also need checking or replacement, with suggestions to label them to avoid loss. Dave noted there are some leftover supplies that can be inventoried before placing new orders. The yard signs will stay up until the end of fall, after which they will be collected and counted.
- 5. Financial Topics** No specific financial or investment-related issues were discussed during this meeting.

To Dos:

1. (Mark) Reach out to Ashley for feedback on students’ perspectives and suggestions.
2. (Cheryl) Purchase additional reflective vests on Amazon.
3. (Cheryl) Use the Thrivent grant to prepare “thank you” bags with snacks and supplies.
4. (Dave) Inventory leftover gloves, vests, and pickers, and communicate needs to Cheryl.
5. (All) Continue to monitor and rotate yard signs if needed, then retrieve them at the end of fall.
6. (Libby) Provide a flyer for the September 13 pickup event.
7. (Mark) Send a Zoom link for the next meeting on September 23, 2025.