

MELANIE HAMMET

Accomplished Civic and Community Leader | Musician and Songwriter

*Committed to the art of leadership and community building with an understanding of the reality of government timetables and the clear need for results
Decades of successful collaboration and communication with elected leadership, educators, business and faith communities, youth, artists, urban planners, and residents/citizen*

MAYOR, CITY OF PINE LAKE — two terms 2016-2023

Overview of challenges, projects, results and accomplishments:

Nov. 30, 2023- Georgia House Resolution 9EX: recognizing Melanie Hammet on her outstanding public service as the Mayor of Pine Lake; and for other purposes.

“WHEREAS, although Pine Lake represents Dekalb County’s smallest city, her exemplary work demonstrates the significance of community identity and the inherent strength of interconnected communities . . .”

COVID-19: Led Pine Lake through the pandemic, including appointment to Dekalb County’s Covid Task Force.

- Coordinated and secured funding for “Feeding The First Responders” food truck, located in police department parking lot. This effort fed 7,000 free lunches to first responders over a crisis period of 4 months.
- Hired local artist to create morale-boosting informational signage; authored 19 *Letters To The City* in 9 months, sent to residents including information/words of encouragement/resources/humor
- Negotiated with city landlord to donate apartment units for quarantine space; monitored health of PL residents, calling hospitalized neighbors, delivering notes and food. Called apartment owners monthly to track potential evictions, prepare to seek assistance
- Created local business support team for real-time updates on grants, funding, resources, assistance with applications

Collaborated with Senator Kim Jackson on the annexation of two commercial properties, resulting in a contiguous city business corridor.

- Prior to this annexation, the center of the corridor was County property, even while receiving Pine Lake city services.

Collaborated with City Council and Senator Jackson to change the City charter to a City Manager form of government.

- Since its founding in 1938 Pine Lake operated as a Strong Mayor government. This change creates policy continuity for the City’s future.

Negotiated purchase of Poplar Park, Pine Lake’s first commercial corridor greenspace, bringing visibility of the City’s identity as “Arts’ Natural Habitat” to the busy thoroughfare that is Rockbridge Road

- Secured additional development funding through Georgia Power Company and Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Developed regular Town Halls for children ages 3 and older to integrate their civic participation into the life of the community. These Town Halls included sessions led by the City’s municipal Judge, Chief of Police, and every member of Council; model now being replicated by other municipalities (including Clarkston)

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Created Arts and Environmental Panels, fostering leadership, programming, and funding opportunities.

- The Municipal Arts Panel (MAP), established an annual arts grant, funded by local businesses. MAP also sponsored Makers Markets in the park and collaborated with SEED, the environmental panel, founding an annual spring concert (Pollination Celebration).
- Established the first public art structure at public works building to display Public Works.

Co-authored grant funding for city-center community garden, established in 2021

Secured funding for placemaking lighting and 2 murals in commercial corridor through Dekalb County and Commissioner Steve Bradshaw, furthering Pine Lake’s reputation as “Arts’ Natural Habitat.”

Served two terms as Dekalb Municipal Association President, once during Mayoral term, once during Council term

CITY COUNCIL / MAYOR PROTEM, CITY OF PINE LAKE—two terms 2007-2013

- **Secured Community Development Block Grant** to fund the year-long professional development and adoption of the City’s first meaningful zoning code, protecting the city’s unique built and natural environment
- **Co-supervised the dredging of the city-center lake**, creating interactive info kiosks along the walking paths (still in use) and a blog (“The Dredge Report”) with mini movies to keep residents updated on progress
- **Founded the Architectural Review Board**, creating a year-long monthly series educating residents on residential zoning topics; ultimately serving as an advisory panel to the City Council
- **Wrote and performed songs from “Edifice Complex,”** (a set of original songs about urban planning) at land use and new urbanism conferences in various U.S. cities

Musician and Songwriter — present day

- **6 albums:** written, arranged, produced and released in the last decade; collaborations with producer Ben Holst
- **Songwriting focused on social justice:** collaborations with *Georgia Innocence Project* (received Presidential Volunteer Service Award 2015); *Veteran’s Music Project*; *Link Counseling Center*
- **Seaside residency award**, wrote “Edifice Complex,” a collection of songs about urban planning and land use
- **Theatre scores and writing** includes work with True Colors Theatre, Alliance Theater, Horizon Theatre; collaborations with Tony award winner Kenny Leon and Broadway designer Marjorie Bradley Kellogg, and award winning playwright Patricia Henritze
- **“Coming Of Age,” a musical for young adults**, distributed and performed globally from 1981 to present day