

TREE BOARD
City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Minutes of March 6, 2024

Meeting started at 5:59 pm.

Board members present: Kevin Dunn (end of meeting minutes), Lindsay Voitik (Chair), Mark Morgan, Beth Held (beginning of meeting minutes), Mark Kaufman, Rob Schmitz, Greg Shelton (Council Liaison) and Kirk Walters

Other attendees: Bridget Tolle (Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works), Izzy Z (Youth Council)

- 1) Introductions were made to the new board member, Rob Schmitz, a 36-yr resident in Prairie Village. Rob mentioned he has a degree in Forestry and is looking forward to contributing to the Tree Board. The other new member, Whitney Wilson, was absent from the meeting. There was also a visitor from the Youth Council, Izzy Z, who stated she was interested in hearing more about the Tree Board activities.
- 2) Kevin Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024 meeting, Mark Morgan seconded, motion carried.
- 3) Arbor Day Event
 - a. The board discussed the presented nominees for the 2024 Arbor Day event, Mr. Dennis Patton, and Ms. Shelby Trewolla. Beth Held made a motion to nominate Dennis Patton to be the 2024 Arbor Day awardee, Rob Schmitz seconded, motion carried.
A suggestion was made by Greg Shelton to expedite the information on the nominee to the Mayor and City Council by the next scheduled council meeting on March 18 due to the extenuating circumstances of the nominee and his family. Lindsay offered to contact the family representative to request their presence at either the March 18 or April 1 council meeting to honor the nominee with a proclamation from the Mayor.
 - b. Bridget advised that she already has Rosehill Nurseries scheduled to plant the White Oak tree.
 - c. Bridget reminded the Board that the Arbor Day event will be held at Wassmer Park on April 27th at 10am. The Board agreed to meet at 9:30am to help set-up.
 - d. Mark Morgan, Mark Kaufman and Beth Held offered to bring snacks for the event. Greg Shelton suggested the Board avoid using plastic water bottles for the event. The Board agreed to request a reminder in the Village Voice and look into reserving the Quench Buggy from Water One. The Board agreed to try and reserve the Buggy.
- 4) Old Business
 - a. Volunteer Waivers (Please Review CP001) – Bridget asked for the remaining volunteer waivers to be turned into her.
 - b. Select Tree Board Meeting Months (6 meetings per year) – Mark Morgan made a motion for the Board to meet in 2024 in the months of February, March, April, May, June, September, and November, Lindsay seconded, motion carried.

- c. Minute Taking Assignments – Agreed upon assignment (March – Beth, April – Kirk, May – Kevin, and June – Mark Morgan). Lindsay proposed to defer the minute taking assignments for September and November to the next Board meeting.
- d. MARC Tree Canopy Aerial Imagery Update – Beth mentioned that she has emailed Tom Jacobs from MARC to follow-up on the timing of the release of the digital data for the Tree Canopy Strategic Plan.
- e. Fall Tree Seminar - Kevin Dunn proposed some potential ideas and topics for the Fall Seminar.

Greg said that the Environmental Committee is promoting Sustainable Lawns and Landscapes. He mentioned an organization called Deep Roots.

Mark Morgan said some potential speakers could be found at BlackRoot Farms located north of Liberty; the Missouri Department of Conservation; the Missouri Prairie Society in Jefferson City; and a Grow Native speaker from St. Joseph, MO. Owner of BlackRoot Farms grows native trees.

Bridget said she can reach out to woman with MO Dept. of Conservation who can speak about choosing tree species that can adapt to climate change.

Kirk suggested we talk to Ducks Unlimited people about habitat reclamation projects.

Board members discussed different dates to hold seminar. Bridget said she would try to reserve third Wednesday in September (the 18th) and first Wednesday in October (the 2nd) at Meadowbrook Clubhouse for the seminar.
- f. Potential Event Partnerships - Greg Shelton (serves on both Environmental and Tree Boards) proposed the Tree Board considering partnering with the Environmental Committee on certain events and initiatives (VillageFest, JazzFest and Fall Tree Seminar) to be more impactful; such as, native tree sale, decarbonization efforts, and sustainability.

5) New Business

Lindsay recommended holding off discussion of new business until next meeting, scheduled for April 3rd.

6) Other Discussion

Bridget and Mark M. discussed signage in front of historic American elm stump at Bennett Park. The sign has faded since it was installed about 5 years ago and there have been wasp infestations around the tree stump which is located in a playground area. Bridget says Public Works is aware of the issues and can replace the sign.

7) The next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.