

TREE BOARD

City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Minutes of April 3, 2024

Meeting started at 6:00 pm.

Board members present: Kevin Dunn, Rob Schmitz, Greg Shelton (Council Liaison), Lindsay Voitik (Chair) and Kirk Walters (minutes)

Other attendees: Bridget Tolle (Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works), Robbie Lashmet (Youth Council), Brynn Bettenhausen (Youth Council)

- 1) Introductions were made to welcome the visiting Youth Council members.
- 2) Kevin Dunn made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2024 meeting, Lindsay Voitik seconded, motion carried.
- 3) Arbor Day Event
 - a. Lindsay talked about Dennis Patton as the Arbor Day honoree. Mary Matthew, Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator for Johnson County Kansas State University Research & Extension will be at the Arbor Day event. Invitations and reminders will be sent out about the event. Bridget Tolle said the Arbor event was published on social media.
 - b. Tree board committee needs to update the information for Arbor Day. Bridget will send over a news announcement to Ashley with PV IT Department
 - c. Lindsay said the KC Gardner will be doing a Dennis Patton mention in the May edition.
 - d. White Oak will be planted by April 25th with the plaque for Dennis Patton.
 - e. Bridget said the shelter by the playground will be reserved for the event. The water buggy is not available and Public Works will provide the cooler and look at getting cups.
 - f. Mark Morgan, Mark Kaufman and Lindsay Voitik will bring snacks, Bridget can bring trash cans, and Kevin Dunn said he could bring paper bags for trash.
 - g. The Tree Committee will meet at 9:30 am at the park and pull an event permit for parking. It may be a good idea to reserve parking for the Patton family. Bridget volunteered to bring cones.
 - h. Kevin mentioned reaching out to the Kansas City Star, Johnson County Post and Coffee News (local community event paper).
 - i. April 15th will be the Arbor Day Proclamation by the Mayor and encourage the tree board members to go to the council meeting.
 - j. Kevin asked about planting the White Oak tree earlier to allow for leaves to mature.
- 4) Old Business
 - a. Volunteer Waivers (Please Review CP001) – Deferred until Whitney Wilson attends.
 - b. 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 May Board meeting.
 - c. MARC Tree Canopy Aerial Imagery Update – No update.
 - d. Fall Tree Seminar – Bridget checked to see if the Meadowbrook Birch room is available for late September or Early October. Kevin mentioned September 18th or October 2nd.

Kirk Walters reached out to Ducks Unlimited, and the regional director will reach out the conservation staff about speaking.

Bridget reached out to her contacts about Tree Seminar. Ryan with Kansas Forest Service is thinking about resigning and starting his own company with training on tree topics. Kevin mentioned getting a speaker from the local nursery. Bring up the topic of climate change and how it affects the growth and stability of trees. Kirk W will reach out Eric Soriano with Hermes about talking.

Kevin said the speakers for the fall tree seminar can be compensated.

Lindsay mentioned having the tree seminar early on September 18th so it can be held prior to community tree buying events. We can advertise the seminar during the JazzFest on September 14th.

- e. Potential Event Partnerships - Greg said the Tree Board can participate at the VillageFest and would like the activity during the event to be active and learning. The event is really for kids to learn. Lindsay mentioned doing a display for a drip line. Other ideas discussed included tree identification and potentially using smell as one of the identifications. Lindsay and the committee second the participation of the VillageFest and JazzFest.
- f. Elm tree signage - Bridget said she had approval to replace the Elm tree signage, but we can hold off for a few more years

5) New Business

- a. Tree Ordinance tree data review - Lindsay asked Bridget about the Tree Protection Ordinance and the City had a net gain of 242 trees in the Year 2023 for construction sites. The bigger the tree they take the more trees they will have to plant. Before the tree ordinance new trees weren't required to be planted and the ordinance requires new trees to be planted. The new ordinance puts a tree protection ring around existing trees. Installing tree protection zones to the right of away next city property. Combining new mature trees with young trees, and old trees. The City Ordinance reduced tree removal doing construction, decreased damage to trees, importance of preserving trees, and monitoring trees during the construction site. Greg mentioned doing a Tree Certification for the builders to keep our status with Tree City USA. Bridget said we got recertified as Tree City USA and also received the Growth award.
- b. Status of updating maps of city park trees and state champion trees - Kevin mentioned to Bridget about updating the tree maps for the parks in their Asset Management system. Lindsay mentioned about updating the champion trees in the system and giving this information to Tree's crew working on the Utilities lines. Bridget showed us how PV rates the trees into the system. Kevin mentioned he and Mark could volunteer to update the tree data in the system.
- c. Review potential 2024 Tree Board Committee Assignments – deferred until May meeting

6) The next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.