

TREE BOARD
City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Meeting Minutes – August 7, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Lindsay Voitik

Board members present: Kevin Dunn, Beth Held, Rob Schmitz, Lindsay Voitik (Chair), Kirk Walters, and Whitney Wilson

Other Attendees: Bridget Tolle (Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works)

1. Minutes – Kevin moved that the June 5, 2024 minutes be approved. Beth seconded.

2. Old Business

- a) Minute Taking Assignments – Confirmed August (Rob); November (Whitney)
- b) Village Fest – Everyone agreed that the event was successful for the Tree Board. There were 57 entries for the drawings for the two trees. The trees were from City Roots and Kevin arranged to get them. Jared Riordan (Overland Park) won the Swamp White Oak and Laura Linebarger (Prairie Village) won the Shellbark Hickory. Approximately 170 tattoos were applied. The board discussed possible improvements for next year. Suggestions included continuing the tattoos and possibly having a reading area.
- c) Fall Tree Seminar – Four speakers will discuss resiliency: Jonah Nelson (Family Tree Nursery), Jesse Kirk (Wellnitz), Rick Spurgeon (Professor PlantRight, formerly the Olathe City Forester), and Kathy Justice (Heartland Tree Alliance). We may be able to compensate the speakers. We have \$318 left in our budget, with an additional \$250 to be added later. We discussed having baked goods and canned drinks at the seminar – but no coffee. We should also have name tents for the speakers. Lindsay investigated the Birch Room and noted that there are large, magnetic white boards which could be used to display imagery regarding tree canopy, heat island maps, historical vs. current tree cover, etc. There was a discussion for various types of imagery that may be available. Bridget mentioned Lucy as a possible source for imagery. We discussed having questions for the speakers prepared ahead of time. Kevin will moderate the seminar discussion and introduce the speakers and Bridget. Kevin, Mark M, and Bridget will prepare an article about the seminar for the Village Voice. Lindsay will contact the KC Post about the seminar being mentioned in that journal. We also discussed getting the Fall Tree Seminar accredited so that Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists can get continuing education credit for attending. The Birch Room will be available to us beginning at 6:30 pm.
- d) Jazz Fest – Kevin proposed that we not participate in the Jazz Fest as we have many other activities on our plate and response for the Tree Board is not anticipated to be beneficial. All others agreed.
- e) Update of the Tree Inventory – Bridget showed some tools for tracking city trees in street easements and city parks. The Lucy tool was again mentioned. We are still waiting on information from MARC, who in turn is waiting to get information from the EPA. We discussed the possibility of using drones to gather tree canopy/cover

information. We also discussed the subject of having a strategic canopy plan, but Bridget felt that the relatively small size of our city may not warrant such a plan.

- f) Tree Board Vacancy – Due to Mark Kaufman leaving the Tree Board, we discussed offering the position now rather than waiting for the usual city volunteer sign up timeframe. Beth moved that we offer the position now and Lindsay seconded. The proposal passed unanimously.
- g) Champion River Birch – We discussed the new contender for Champion River Birch. Bridget displayed pictures of the current and prospective trees, both of which happen to be in Prairie Village. It was decided to check with Rick (?).

3. New Business

- a) Brainstorm potential Village Voice articles and determine next steps – deferred to next meeting.
- b) Review potential Tree Board committee assignments, e.g., tree protection ordinance issues, online tree map, new board member education, public outreach (educational articles, social media), events – deferred to next meeting.
- c) Prairie Village 75th anniversary celebration – discuss Tree Board participation – deferred to next meeting.
- d) Whitney suggested we discuss getting additional resources for the Tree Board in order to help us become a green city. We decided to ask Greg for direction in this regard.

4. The next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.