

TREE BOARD
City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Minutes

Wednesday – November 6th, 2024 6:00 PM Meeting
Public Works Building
3535 Somerset Drive

Board Members: Kevin Dunn, Mark Morgan, Rob Schmitz, Greg Shelton, Lindsay Voitik, Whitney Wilson

Other Attendees: Bridget Tolle, Drew Richardson

1. Review and approve minutes from August 7, 2024 Meeting
2. Old Business
 - a. Fall tree seminar review: article was in the voice for Oct/Nov- Mark wrote it and it was received well
Feedback on fall seminar: People said it was terrific, presentations were well received lots of different ideas, people felt the Q&A was helpful. So helpful the event went well past 8:30. Suggestion to start Q&A earlier or lengthen event timing for next year. Roughly 70 people attended including the panel. Master Gardeners attended, feedback from them was to make sure it was organized, have name tags and table tents. Possible topic for breakout - water retention strategies. Greg suggested idea of having key note and possibly 1-2 breakout sessions to allow for more engagement. Kevin Dunn did a great job moderating the discussion. Mark suggested doing another tree give away during the seminar. Fall seminar meets Arbor Day Foundation outreach requirement- would be good to continue the event next year. Next meeting budget discussion.
3. New Business
 - a. Vacancies: Greg relayed the message from the Mayor and Council indicating they would like to make sure we have representation across all wards if possible. After a vote: Michael Konovalske, Jessen Bowen, Bart AltenBernd (sp) were selected from the applicants. Lindsay as chair would then call the winning applicants and advise the other applicants they would need to apply again; a new period would be open until 12/31/24.
 - b. Winter pruning session discussion: usually the City waits until after the holidays to prune street trees, trees on islands. There was further discussion

of checking out some of the pedestrian trails where kids are walking back from school etc. Might need additional attendance.

- c. Bridget offered tree re-planting commentary: 157 trees would be re-planted prior or just after Thanksgiving. Mostly street trees being replanted should be done by December. Notices will go out about a week out. City will be in contact with the utilities and they will come out to mark the areas to ensure they are safely planted. Many of the trees are being replanted due to the storm damage earlier in the year. Kevin asked about warranty of trees and if 5-10k would be given again to Bridging the Gap to help augment areas that incurred most of the storm damage.
- d. Conversation about Lucity software came up.
- e. Conversation about managing tree variety to ensure a healthy canopy. Example trees were mentioned: Kentucky coffee, service berry, maple variety Princeton yellow, frontier elms, black tupelo, maples are typically most popular. Also seeing catalpa's for the parks.
- f. Conversation about data visualization continued with being able to understand storm impact and beyond that what's the reason for tree death, possible area to view opportunities for engagement and more efficient care of newly planted trees. Mark suggestion to build a subgroup for the data visualization conversation.
- g. Conversation about incorporating arboretum park trees and top 100 trees in engagement. Data visualization topics also included benchmarks, care strategy, Mark mentioned updating the tree walk, tree markers, having digital way for people to be able to learn about the variety of trees in the parks/walkways. Bridget indicated they were resource constrained, Greg mentioned we would need to look at 2026 budgeting because budget would be completed in January for 2025. Whitney mentioned possibly having a list of what do we have versus what would we like to see outlined and then we could meet with Bridget to pass along to be reviewed and possibly leverage new committee members help to build visualizations if monetary resources are constrained.
- h. Further discussion on: updating right away tree list, is there a way to make it digitized
- i. Conversation about host animals - Allen Branhagen (sp) from Powell Gardens as a resource, Multistudio tree list
- j. Bridget & Lindsay would work on Tree City USA tasks
- k. Aims Data- EIE insights explorer discussion- provides satellite imagery, Overland Park shows. Bridget mentioned going to the GIS person at the

county to see if they could expose the data for the whole county to improve our visualizations. GIS person at the county was originally intended for solar projects and reducing heat islands so the visuals are likely already set up.

- l. Kevin mentioned providing an invasive proposal for Wassmer Park because of the Honey Suckle, he shared a visual with variety of native plants/flowers and shrubs that could replace it. Bridget mentioned it would be easier to maintain with fewer varieties but that it was a good idea.
 - m. Greg provided an update on Keramida, the sustainability consultant the City had recently contracted with, and was completing their proposal for sustainability for the area. They would be completing Phase 1- as a part of the City's race to Zero by 2040, they have a plan that's been developed, there will be criteria for reporting to meet the goal. This largely involves municipal operations, energy and water efficiency, broader community (homeowners and businesses) they will also be offering communication around what folks can do there. They will also be offering target dates for community forums, working groups, community groups, and details of the plan will then be finalized after community input. Broad strokes strategy around what can be done in the next 25 years. Home energy - power- water consumption strategy and other environmental strategy.
 - n. Village Voice next steps: Arbor day nomination, Dec 5th for Jan Feb submittal with deadline 2/28/25. Arbor day celebration April 26th. Ashley is public information officer- discussion around making sure trees are a part of the spring plant sales.
4. Meeting adjourned at . Minutes Prepared by Whitney Wilson.