

TREE BOARD
City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Minutes

Wednesday - February 5, 2025 6:00 pm Meeting

Public Works Building
3535 Somerset Drive

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:01 p.m.

Board members present: Bart Altenbernd, Beth Held (minutes), Michael Konovalske, Mark Morgan, Rob Schmitz, Chi Nguyen (Council Liaison), Lindsay Voitik (Chair), Kirk Walters and Whitney Wilson

Other attendees: James Carney (Field Superintendent, Public Works) – James is substituting for Bridget Tolle (Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works)

- 1) Lindsay introduced the new Board members (Bart Altenbernd and Michael Konovalske) and the new Tree Board Council Liaison (Chi Nguyen). Introductions and a brief background were made by the rest of the Board members, Lindsay also provided her background and work history prior to becoming Chair.
- 2) Review and approve minutes: Lindsay asked if there were edits to the minutes presented, hearing none, a motion was made by Mark Morgan to approve with a second by Rob Schmitz. Motion carried.

3) Old Business

- a. Nominate/Recommend reappointment for Tree Board member and Tree Board Chair: Lindsay notified the Board that Beth Held's term is up and asked whether she was interested in renewing her term. Beth respectfully declined stating that her current job with the federal government has posed significant challenges in maintaining any outside volunteer commitments so she would not be able to renew her term, but is more than willing to attend meetings as an interested public and provide assistance to the Board on the tree canopy strategic plan when needed.

The next item of business was to elect a Board Chair. Lindsay was asked to leave the room by James Carney. Whitney Wilson made a motion to re-elect Lindsay Voitik as the Chair, Michael L, seconded. Motion carried. Lindsay was asked to return to the room and announced she will remain as the Chair.

Lindsay suggested that the Board review the applicant packets for a replacement for Beth Held's position. The Board discussed the remaining applicants. A vote was taken by secret ballot. Beth Held counted the votes and announced to the Board

that Colin McCallister won the vote as the newest Board member. Lindsay will contact Colin and let him know his nomination will be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for approval.

- b. Arbor Day Foundation – Tree City USA application: Lindsay recommended that this item be deferred to the next meeting for discussion when Bridget Tolle returns.
- c. Tree canopy coverage: Lindsay recommended that this item be deferred to the next meeting for discussion when Bridget Tolle returns.

4) **New Business**

- a. Sign Volunteer Waivers (Review CP001): James distributed the volunteer waiver and release forms to each Board member for signature per City of Prairie Village policy. The signed forms were returned to James and the meeting proceeded.
- b. Determine Tree Board meeting months (6 required): A discussion was had among the members in selecting this year's meeting months based on need and calendar events. The Board unanimously decided on March, April, May, June, August and November. Dedicating September or October for the Fall Seminar. Mike K. made a motion to approved the months as presented, Rob S. seconded. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Nguyen suggested that the Board consider participating in this year's "Go Green" event held in September in Mission, KS. The Board proposed to discuss this at the next meeting and added to the agenda for March.

- c. Review minute taking assignments: March – Mike K.; April – Kirk W.; May – Whitney W.; June – Mark M.; August – Bart A.; November – Rob S.
- d. Arbor Day event – Saturday, April 26, 2025: Lindsay advised the Board that nominations are due February 28. Prior to the meeting, Lindsay discussed event location with Bridget. Bridget recommended a newly redeveloped location in Harmon Park between the pool complex and the tennis courts. After a discussion with James and the Board about the proposed location, Beth Held made a motion to select Harmon Park as the preferred location and Rob S. seconded. Motion carried.

The board discussed potential nominees for this year's event. As of the meeting date, no nominations have been received from the Village Voice announcement requesting nominees. Kirk K. recommended nominating Kevin Dunn as this year's honoree and volunteered to complete the nomination form.

The Board will review and select the honoree from the nominations received by the nomination deadline at the next Board meeting.

- e. Village Voice Articles: Bridget Tolle received approval for the Arbor Day event article and is working with Ashley at the City to meet the article posting deadline. Contain the Rain event article - Mark M. asked if Bridget could publish the same article from last year. Lindsay agreed to work with Bridget on that idea.

- f. Deep Roots Native Plant Sale – Saturday, April 12th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Campus 7700 Mission Road - Mark M. suggested that the Board confirm if it's going to be a city-sponsored event this year, and if so, can Bridget submit an article for it. Mark M. volunteered to help write the articles on Contain the Rain and Deep Roots if Bridget can submit them to the City. Mark indicated the Plant sale would include City Roots, Parsons and Missouri Wildflower. He recommended adding "Tree" to the name – "Native Plant and Tree Sale" to clarify the sale will also include native trees.

- g. Mark M. made a suggestion to the Board on whether they would like to pursue tree mapping that would contribute to the Tree Canopy Strategic Plan. The discussion was deferred to the next meeting when Bridget returns. James C. requested that Mike K. with his background assist with organizing the tree data when collected. Mark M. reintroduced the Arboretum Map as a basemap to spring off of for data. Mark M. explained the rationale behind the "Arboretum Trees" as being classified as the Top 100 Trees located in Harmon, Porter and Franklin City Parks. Mark M. suggest that the Board use this as part of the Tree Canopy Plan to highlight those Top 100 Trees that the City has in their parks as trees of importance.

5) The next Tree Board meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025.

Beth H. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Rob S. seconded. Motion carried.