

## Tree Board

City of Prairie Village, Kansas

### Minutes

**Wednesday - May 7, 2025, 6:00pm Meeting**

Public Works Building - 3535 Somerset Drive

Board Members: Bart Altenbernd, Michael Konovalske, Colin McAllister, Mark Morgan, Chi Nguyen (Council Liaison), Rob Schmitz, Lindsay Voitik (Chair), Kirk Walters (minutes), and Whitney Wilson

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

Meeting started at 6:03pm

1. Review and Approve April Minutes: Attached minutes in packet were from March, Bridget shared April's on display. Lindsay motioned. Mike seconded. April minutes approved unanimously.
2. Arbor Day Event: It turned out well. Kevin sent a thank you note. Over 50 people showed up. All the oak whips were spoken for. Feedback from the board: beverages should match the weather. Might hand out tree whips again for other events. The giveaway at the last fall seminar was also a hit. Village Voice article. Action item Upload photos to Google Drive.
3. Tree Mapping Update: On hold. Updating version of Lucity. Requires licenses for ArcGIS online. On hold to have map accessible to the public until the update. Estimated to be done this year
  - a. Champion trees: 6 trees that exist. Needs to be digitized. Will require designation in Lucity to denote that it's a private tree. Need to get data into Lucity for top 100 trees. Symbols required for map. Champion trees should be trees with crowns. Distinguish evergreens and deciduous.
  - b. Combine data with sustainability board; e.g., heat islands. Can integrate with the treecanopy.us too. Mark wants to understand what the user interface will be like. Main concern is to make it educational for the group.
  - c. Any costs for this project must be approved by public works first, then would fall underneath the public works budget. Need a longer-term solution to the cedar post
4. VillageFest: Last year temporary tattoo station served as the draw. Kids were distracted. Kevin did work answering questions. Two tree giveaways. Location was in the basketball court next to Mission Rd. Group unsure if the location is best for this

year. Whitney suggested rotating between tattoo station and Q&A. Mike suggested that we should give out cheap umbrellas to show the importance of a tree canopy. Whitney brought back up the idea of a monitor to show off tree canopy. Give away the mulch instead of trees. July not the best time to plant trees. Mulching trees in the heat of the summer is better. Whitney suggested moving location towards the parking lot may be better. Bridget will try to see if the location is negotiable. Need a power source for the monitor and computer. Either find a power plug or battery system.

5. Other events: Group agrees we have planning for now. Unanimous no vote on striking out JazzFest and Go Green participation.
  - a. Fall tree seminar, can reserve half of the Rosewood A and/or B in late Sep. and early Oct. Rosewood A can suffice because 110 seats can be put in theater style. Sound system and projector exist. Potential Dates: Sep 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30. Oct 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14. Can see if Kevin can provide content. Last year was resiliency. Native vs Non-native. Mike suggested spotting diseased trees. Big turnout for previous pests. Whitney will reach out to Betsey, Master entomologist guru. Colin will reach out to Jerry Marshall, an entomologist to see if they or anyone else at KState would be interested in doing a talk. Bridget will reach out to Blaine Stroble, NE Community Forester with Kansas Forest Service and Jacquelyne, a plant pathologist with Arbor Masters.
6. 75th anniversary celebration in 2026: Rob suggested covering the history of trees in Prairie Village. Lindsay suggested add tree activity into movie night. Scavenger hunt. Lindsay asked for others to provide more input for this
7. Street Tree Planting Project: Looking to plant more trees down Roe between Franklin and Meadowbrook. Bridget and Lindsay pointed out that trees can't be planted next to the substation. Bridget got approval from Keith to plant trees. Considered a "special project". Looking at both sides of Roe. Bridget is asking for input for this. Trying to fill gaps where there is no shade. Needs to be diverse. Not trying to do this all in one year. Multi-year project. Mark suggested grouping trees together instead of spacing them all out by creating beds. Bridget says the city couldn't do the work to create and maintain beds. City can promise to water trees for a couple years.
8. Closing: Mike motioned to adjourn. Mark seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm. Minutes prepared by Colin McAllister and formatted by Bridget Tolle.