

Tree Board Meeting Minutes for 11/05/2025

Bart Altenbernd, Mike Konovalske, Colin McAllister, Mark Morgan, Rob Schmitz, Lindsay Voitik, and Kirk Walters

Call the meeting at 6:02

Approved meeting minutes

Mike motioned, Mark seconded

Review Fall Seminar

- We discussed the phone issue regarding Betsy Betros.
- We discussed the various promotional items used prior to the seminar. Mark also pointed out that our seminar was indeed mentioned in the Johnson County Post.
- Lindsay praised the provided literature, setup, and refreshments. The materials brought by Arbor Masters was also praised.
- Mark suggested merging section a from the most recent minutes with the review of the seminar in this meeting, and post this to the website to provide a guide for future seminars.
- Mike suggested improvements with the sound system and mics for future seminars. This was also one of the suggestions put in the suggestion jar at the seminar.
- Another suggestion in the suggestion jar was to perhaps discuss food forests at a future seminar.

Tree Mapping

- Bridget has been tagged to handle the new tree mapping project. She said the software has now been updated and she is in the process of adding new data. Porter Park has been completed. We have ESRI credits.
- There was also a discussion about tree tags.
- Mike provided additional information regarding the use of the tree mapping program. He suggested he could provide a demonstration at our next Tree Board meeting.

Membership Status

- Mark, Kirk, and Lindsay said they would like to continue on the Tree Board for 2026. This means that we will not have any vacancies for Tree Board members for 2026.
- We discussed ways to recruit a Youth Rep; perhaps contact Shawnee Mission East.
- We will learn the name of our new council liaison in early 2026.

Street / Park Tree Pruning

- Bridget provided an update on this year's pruning of street and park trees. Kansas City Tree Care has been chosen as the organization to perform the work.

Fall Street Tree Planting

- Bridget provided an update on this project. She said planting will begin late November into early December. This is a bit later than originally planned due to the recent warm weather. She also mentioned the various types of trees to be planted this year.

End of Year Activities

- Arbor Day Foundation
Bridget said the city will send in the application for the Foundation after the fall tree planting is complete so the newly planted trees can be included in the counts provided in the application. We will see this new application info in our February meeting.
- Kansas Forest Service Poster Contest
Kirk is continuing with this project. We discussed that 5th grade students are the intended target audience.
- Arbor Day Nomination
On October 1st, we received a nomination form for Sarah Milgrim. We will need to publicly request submissions and Mark showed us the request that was published last year. We decided that last year's request could be slightly amended to use for this next request. We also discussed the possibility of having two honorees. Mark said the only other time we had two was in 2019. We determined that we probably would not have two for 2026.
- New Owner of State Champion Overcup Oak
The previous owner of the property with the state champion overcup oak moved and left the certificate with the house. The new owner would like to have her name on the certificate rather than the name of the previous owner. Mark said he can prepare a new certificate with her name.
- Johnson County Post Article re Oak Wilt
Bridget was mentioned and quoted in an article on oak wilt in the Johnson County Post. She mentioned in our meeting that it is not really an issue in Prairie Village. Further discussion centered around how pruning in warm months can increase the likelihood of contracting oak wilt as a fresh wound would attract the insect that carries oak wilt. There was more discussion regarding the best time of year to prune and the times when pruning in warm months cannot be avoided.

Mike will take minutes in the February, 2026 meeting.

Additional Items

- Lindsay brought up that next year, 2026, the city will be celebrating our 75th anniversary. She suggested we begin thinking of ways the Tree Board can participate.
- Bridget also mentioned that the Pioneer tree stump in Harmon Park has deteriorated more quickly than anticipated. Unfortunately, it needs to be removed. This work has been planned for when additional work is being done in the park.

The meeting ended at 7:25

Minutes prepared by Rob Schmitz