

TREE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

City of Prairie Village, Kansas

Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Public Works Building, 3535 Somerset Drive

Board Members Present

Bart Altenbernd

Michael Konovalske (Minutes)

Rob Schmitz

Lindsay Voitik (Chair)

Jim Sellers (Council Liaison)

Board Members Absent

Colin McAllister

Mark Morgan

Kirk Walters

Whitney Wilson

Other Attendees

Bridget Tolle, Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Motion: Lindsay Voitik; Second: Michael Konovalske. Motion carried.

Board members provided introductions to Jim Sellers, newly appointed Council Liaison.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Michael Konovalske; Second: Rob Schmitz. Motion carried.

Tree Board Appointments and Leadership

Kirk Walters announced his resignation, creating an open vacancy on the Tree Board.

2026 Chair Appointment: Motion by Rob Schmitz to appoint Lindsay Voitik as Chair; Second by Michael Konovalske. Motion carried.

Reappointment Recommendation: Mark Morgan was recommended for reappointment following his expressed interest at the November 2025 meeting.

New Application Review: Applicants for the vacant position were reviewed using a ranked voting process. 1st choice Randy Bryant, 2nd choice Magda Born, 3rd choice Laura Stack

Administrative Items

Volunteer waivers were signed by all board members.

The Board discussed the Tree City USA application and required prerequisites.

Tree Program Updates

Reviewed tree events, budget considerations, and planting and maintenance processes.

Discussed the City's current pruning schedule and maintenance plans.

Public Tree Map Update: An initial tree inventory layer has been published in ArcGIS Online and is expected to replace the existing Google Maps tree map.

Discussed future public accessibility of the tree map.

Discussed ArbNet participation and researching new tree identification tags.

75th Anniversary Discussion

Discussed participation in the City's 75th anniversary parade.

Explored the possibility of a Tree Board float and collaboration with the Environmental Committee.

New Business – Arbor Day Event

Reviewed Arbor Day nomination process and February 28 nomination deadline.

Discussed a Village Voice article to promote public nominations.

Discussed Porter Park as the event and tree planting location.

Meeting Schedule and Minutes Assignments

Meeting months selected: February, March, April, May, June, September, November.

Minutes assignments: March – Rob Schmitz; April – Bart Altenbernd.

Motion: Michael Konovalske; Second: Lindsay Voitik. Motion carried.

Communications and Public Education

Reviewed upcoming Village Voice articles regarding native plant sales, right-of-way trees, and tree contractors.

Emphasized that right-of-way trees are community assets and require City permission for removal.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Motion: Rob Schmitz; Second: Michael Konovalske. Motion carried.

(minutes prepared by Michael Konovalske)