

Tree Board Meeting Minutes for 03/04/2026

Board members present

Bart Altenbernd
Mike Konovalske
Colin McAllister
Mark Morgan
Rob Schmitz
Lindsay Voitik
Whitney Wilson

Other attendees

Bridget Tolle (Urban Forestry Specialist, Public Works)
Jim Sellers (Council Liaison)
Nancy Milgrim
Marlene Nagel

Board members absent

Andy Bryant

Lindsay Voitik called the meeting to order at 6:00

Two guests were introduced: Nancy Milgrim and Marlene Nagel
All board members introduced themselves

Mike Konavalske motioned that the meeting minutes from February 4, 2026 be approved. Bart Altenbernd seconded the motion.

Old Business

- It was confirmed that Andy Bryant is our new board member, replacing Kirk Walters who resigned
- Arbor Day Event – Saturday, April 25th at 10 am in Porter Park
 - Reviewed letters of support for the nomination of Sarah Lynn Milgrim
 - Nancy Milgrim and Marlene Nagel expressed their desire and appreciation for the nomination
 - The nomination was voted for unanimously
 - Bridget displayed the designated location for the tree to be planted in Sarah's honor
 - There was a discussion around the type of tree to be planted. Nancy Milgrim requested some type of Flowering tree. Most agreed that a sweet bay magnolia would be good.
 - The Arbor Day proclamation will be in the city council meeting April 6th (possibly April 20th). Jerry's report to the city council will be around this honoring.
 - The tree will be planted a couple of weeks prior to the Arbor Day event. Bridget will let Nancy Milgrim and Marlene Nagel know when the planting will take place.
 - Nancy Milgrim and Marlene Nagel then left the meeting.
 - There was some discussion around available parking in Porter Park due to possible high attendance. Possible security concerns were briefly discussed.

- **Public Tree Map Progress**
 Bridget had good news that data from our Lucity and Public Works work orders have been used to successfully populate our arcgis program. Bridget displayed the mapping results and explained how the map was populated and how it could be used. It is hoped that this new data will be published this summer.
 The new mapping will be made available to the public via the city website. QR codes on the tree signage will link back to this database.
 State champion trees will also be included in this database.
 The new tree mapping led to a discussion of signage. Mark described the signage he found at the Linda Hall Library (the UMKC Arboretum).
- **ArbNet Application**
 Bridget said that at this time we can apply for Level 1 accreditation with ArbNet. This will provide international recognition of our arboretum. Level 1 requires 100 trees to be identified (we have 188). Level 2 requires 200 trees so we are only 12 trees from being able to apply for Level 2. This discussion also covered signage. A vote was taken and all voted to apply for Level 1.
- **Arboretum Tags/Stakes Discussion**
 Although this topic was touched upon earlier in the meeting, there was further discussion at this time. Bridget displayed the possible options and pricing on the National Band & Tag Co. website.
 There was also discussion around the placement of signage involving size of the tree, branching characteristics of the tree, etc. All agreed that the signage should be placed for easiest and best viewing by the public.
- **Participation in the 75th Anniversary Parade**
 Jim mentioned that it may be too late to prepare a float for the parade. In the last meeting, it was suggested that we collaborate with the Environmental Committee. Jim is the chair of the Environmental Committee and he said that committee is in the same position as the Tree Board.
 It was suggested we could plant a tree on the city campus as part of the 75th Anniversary. The tree could be planted as part of the landscaping for the new campus as the landscaping plans will be established early in the construction project and the area will be protected.
 It was also suggested that we could simply have Tree Board members walk in the parade carrying Tree Board banners – maybe even along with the Environmental Committee members.

New Business

- **Purdue University Institute for Digital Forestry Projects**
 Whitney described what this effort would yield for the city and what is required. There was discussion around the amount of funding that Purdue would require.
 The effort involves Purdue graduate students coming to our city and using various imaging devices (including LIDAR) to inventory and assess health of our tree canopy. The data gathered will feed Purdue's AI learning efforts regarding trees. Purdue requires funding to be in place before they would partner with us.

There was then discussion regarding the amount of this data we already have: MARC data, TreeCanopy.us, etc.

Jim mentioned that he requested and question (# 23) on the recent city survey regarding trees.

It was decided that we should have a special meeting to discuss this topic.

- Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department

We discussed involving JCPRD Urban Forestry Supervisor, Daniel Ohmes, in our work.

Our board could meet with him and we could include him in our Fall Seminar.

It was also suggested that we begin to think about the Fall Seminar topics and even perhaps a different format.

Bridget will generate the agenda for our next meeting, April 1st, 2026

Bart Altenbernd will take the minutes of our April 1st meeting.

Mark motioned that the meeting be adjourned; Mike seconded the motion

The meeting ended at 7:56

Minutes prepared by Rob Schmitz