



Abilene Tree Board Meeting Agenda
Abilene Public Library – Malott Room
209 NW 4th Street
February 27, 2024 – 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call: ___ Drew Snitker ___ Tim Strunk ___ Hayley Whitehair
 ___ Vice-Chair Corey Jones ___ Chair Steven Flynn

3. Approval of Agenda – February 27, 2024

4. Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2023

5. Business
 - Elections
 - Arbor Day Poster Contest
 - Fourth Grade Foresters/Arbor Day – April 26, 2024
 - Living Lands & Waters Million Trees Project/ADM
 - Street Tree Planting Program
 - City Forestry Standards and Specifications

6. Comments

7. Adjournment



Abilene Tree Board Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW 4th Street
November 28, 2023 – 5:30 pm

Members Present: Steve Flynn, Corey Jones, Drew Snitker, and Hayley Whitehair

Members Absent: Tim Strunk

Staff Present: Jennie Hiatt

Others Present: none

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Flynn.

2. Roll Call

Present: Flynn, Jones, Snitker, and Whitehair

3. Approval of the Agenda

Whitehair made a motion to approve the agenda as written, and Snitker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

4. Approval of the Minutes from July 25, 2023

Snitker made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Whitehair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

5. Business

- **Arbor Day Poster Contest**

Hiatt stated that she had sent the lesson plan and contest rules to the 5th grade teachers at St. Andrew's Elementary and Eisenhower Elementary for 2024 Arbor Day Poster Contest and confirmed with Sam Geissinger that the Arts Council of Dickinson County would again be helping to judge the posters.

- **City Forestry Standards and Specifications Review**

There was a discussion regarding updating the standards and specifications. Hiatt stated that she had met with City Inspector, Travis Steerman regarding the standards pertaining to the inspection department.

- **Budget**

Hiatt stated that the balance of the Tree Board fund is currently \$4,006.48. The parks and recreation department has requested \$500 for trees. There was discussion about setting up a different fund with the remaining funds to help citizens with tree removal if allowable.

Flynn made a motion to put the remaining funds from 2023 into a separate fund for tree removal, and Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

6. Comments

There was discussion about removing the trees from the parking lot adjacent to Little Ike Park.

Whitehair made a motion to approve the removal of the trees, and Flynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

The board stated that they would like to be consulted in the future regarding the replacement of trees. Some of the species recommended would be the John Pair would be great and the best for shade, Texas Red Oak would be a tough species, along with Eastern Red Buds. Another comment made was that there needs to be less concrete and a bigger area to plant the trees.

7. Adjournment

Snitker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Whitehair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0) and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest

Minutes Approved,

Jennie Hiatt
Administrative Manager

Steve Flynn, Chair
Corey Jones, Vice-Chair

Cost Share Program

Steve Flynn <SteveF@bluebeacon.com>

Mon 2/5/2024 5:21 AM

To: Jennie Hiatt <jennie@abilenecityhall.com>

📎 3 attachments (5 MB)

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Jennie, as I was researching information for the New Paper article I came across the Manhattan Kansas "Street Tree Planting Program" and I think we should consider adopting some of the ideas they are using as a replacement for our Cost Share Program. I know I have shared with you several ideas for tree planting, but I think they all could tie in together through a program like the one Manhattan has.

First it is not a cost share. There is simply an application and if approved a tree is planted. A key point is "if approved", Manhattan lays out their approval process leaves the decisions such as tree selection and site to plant in their hands. Manhattan says they plant over 200 trees each spring throughout the city right of ways and parks. Based on Manhattans population which google says is 54000 / 200 trees per year = 1 tree planted per 270 people in the city. Applying this to Abilene 6,500 population / 270 = 24 trees per year. For us to due a similar tree planting to Manhattan would only require 24 trees per year on right of ways and in the parks, this seems like a reasonable number to me. I would propose we start with a smaller goal say 15 trees per year along streets and in the parks. If we used 2000 of our funds to buy 15 trees that would be \$130 per tree.

What I like about the Manhattan program are the following:

- I'm hopeful we would get more people applying since there is not a cost.
- If people don't apply it gives us a program to discuss with homeowners when there is a need for trees such as East 1st Street, or the East 6th Street project.
- Manhattans program limits the plantings based on Tree availability and funds. We would do the same.
- One big point is that there is no reason for people to plant the silver maples, Siberian Elms and other undesirable trees in the right of ways. The city gets more control over what is being planted!
- The Tree's for Mainstreet would continue as a priority to fill in the missing trees on our main-streets first, both from applications for a planting and from approaching homeowners.

If we planted 15 trees per year, let's say 5 in the parks and 10 along the streets. It would not be much different from what we are doing now. Lumbriehouse and Earthcare in Salina would be our main sources of trees. We plant them mainly in the spring, but fall planting works as well. It is based on site tree availability and tree availability. I would be willing to water all the street trees. Cory and his team could water the park trees. Attached above are some screen shots of the Manhattan Program.

Clearly this is a big change so we should consider it carefully. What are your thoughts?

Forestry

The Forestry Section is responsible for planting and maintenance of city trees. Trees growing on city street rights of way or on other city properties are owned by the City of Manhattan and thus controlled by city ordinance. This ordinance regulates the planting, pruning, and removal of city trees. These activities require the issuance of a permit through the forestry supervisor

Tree City USA

The forestry section also consults with all other city departments whenever trees and/or vegetation is an issue. For the past 29 years, the City of Manhattan's Urban Forestry Program has earned the "Tree City USA" designation. This is an award given by the National Arbor Day Foundation to cities that demonstrate a serious commitment to urban forestry. In the past ten years, the City of Manhattan has earned two "Tree City USA Growth Awards" for improvements made to the Urban Forestry Program



Smokey Bear celebrates Arbor Day with the students of Bergman Elementary School

The forestry section coordinates an annual [Spring Street Tree Planting Program](#). The City of Manhattan purchases approximately 200 trees each year to be planted on the city street rights of way. Anyone can request a tree be planted by filling out a simple application. These forms are accepted March 1 through March 31 each year. The forestry section also answers requests from citizens to inspect city trees and take appropriate measures. These include tree improvement pruning, removal of defective trees and other tree maintenance activities.

For information regarding city-owned trees, tree maintenance or other tree and vegetation issues, contact the forestry section at 785-587-2754.

[Home](#) › [Services](#) › [Forestry](#) › Street Tree Planting Program

Street Tree Planting Program

Each year, we plant trees along the street "right-of-way" during April and May. Request a free tree to be planted in the "right-of-way" at your home or business during the month of March each year. The first priority is given to lots and areas with no trees. The second priority is given in accordance with the number and species of existing trees. If you are selected to receive a tree, Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department Forestry will select the species and location to be planted. The site will be staked several days in advance and information about the species of tree will be placed on your door. Access the [2019 Tree Planting Request Form](#).



Report a Tree down on Public Property

Download the City of Manhattan Report It! app or use the city's website to [report tree limbs down on public property](#) (generally in the street or between the sidewalk and the street). You can also call 785-587-2754, or after hours and on weekends, please call the Riley County Police Department at 785-537-2112.