



Abilene Tree Board Meeting Agenda
Abilene Public Library – Malott Room
209 NW 4th Street
February 28, 2023 – 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 28, 2023
4. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2022
5. Business
 - Elections
 - Arbor Day Poster Contest
 - Tree City USA and Growth Award
 - Arbor Day – Fourth Grade Foresters
 - Community Forestry IRA Funding
 - Ordinance Review
 - EAB Management Plan
6. Comments
7. Adjournment



Abilene Tree Board Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW 4th Street
November 3, 2022 – 5:30 pm

Members Present: Steve Flynn, Drew Snitker, Tim Strunk, and Hayley Whitehair

Members Absent: Corey Jones

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, Snitker, Strunk, and Whitehair

3. Approval of the Agenda

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

4. Approval of the Minutes from September 27, 2022

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

5. Business

- **Mainstreet Program.**

There was discussion regarding locations where a couple more trees could be planted yet this year. Jones had mentioned to Hiatt that he could use a tree by the camper sewer dump station. Strunk said that there was a spot by the new shelter at the fairgrounds that would be a good spot for a tree as well.

Snitker made a motion to approve purchasing a Linden Tree and an American Dream Oak from Lumber House to plant in these locations. The motion was seconded by Strunk. Motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

- **Ordinance Review**

Hiatt handed out notebooks that she had put together.

Hiatt stated that the Arbor Day Foundation will be looking at each city's ordinance and has given everyone until the end of 2023 to make needed changes.

There was further discussion.

- **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

Hiatt stated that along with updating the ordinance it has been recommended to make sure that the city ordinance includes an EAB plan.

There was further discussion.

- **Tree Removal Cost Share Program**

Hiatt stated that the Tree Board's budget will increase to \$6,000 for 2023.

There was further discussion.

Snitker made a motion to put the remaining budget monies to Lumber House for the 2023 tree program and Strunk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (4-0)

6. Comments

Hiatt stated that she would have additional items to go in everyone's notebooks.

7. Adjournment

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

Attest:

Minutes Approved,

Jennie Hiatt
Administrative Assistant

Steve Flynn, Chair
Corey Jones, Vice-Chair



**47th ANNUAL TREE CITY USA
RECOGNITION EVENT TOUR**

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Belle Plaine, Kansas

Haysville, Kansas

1:00 Meet at Bartlett Arboretum, 301 N. Line, Belle Plaine, KS 67013
(Corner of Line and HWY 55)

1:00- 2:45 Tour the Bartlett Arboretum

2:45- 3:00 Commute to John C. Pair Hort. Center

3:00- 5:00 Tour the JCPHC, 1901 East 95th St. South, Haysville, KS 67060
(SE Corner of 95th St. South and Hydraulic)

Tour Guides:

Robin Macy, Steward of the Bartlett Arboretum

Dr. Jason Griffin, Director of the JCPHC

Description:

The Bartlett Arboretum is a 113-year-old arboretum nestled on 15 acres in Paradise Valley between the Arkansas and the Ninnescah rivers. The founder was Dr. Walter Bartlett and is now cared for by Robin Macy since 1997.

The JCPHC is a state, regional and national Horticulture Research Center working with mainly woody plants, with the late Dr. John C. Pair being the director from 1970- 1998. Dr. Jason Griffin has been the Director since 2002.

Please note whether you will attend the tour in the attached registration brochure. There is no charge for the tour. **Registration is due by March 14th.**



47th Annual TREE CITY USA RECOGNITION EVENT
Thursday March 23, 2023
Madison Avenue Park - Derby, Kansas

8:00 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:10	Welcome and Introductions Steve White, City of Derby Matt Norville, CF Coordinator, KFS Jason Hartman, State Forester, KFS
9:10 - 9:55	'Abiotic Disorders', Ryan Rastok, Kansas Forest Service
9:55 –10:40	'Tree Propagation to Production', Dr. Jason Griffin, Director of the JCPHC
10:40 –11:10	BREAK
11:10 –12:00	Community/District Breakouts and Discussions
12:00 – 1:00	LUNCH (catered) and Awards presentations: Tree Campus USA, Poster Contest, Community Forestry Award
1:00 – 2:00	'A KS Bucket List-A Photographic Journey of Natural Places in KS', Pam Paulsen, Reno County Hort. Agent and Extension Director
2:00 – 2:15	BREAK
2:20 – 3:00	TCUSA 2022 Awards and Photos
3:00	Adjourn



CITY OF ABILENE
419 N. Broadway - PO Box 519
Abilene, KS 67410
www.abilenecityhall.com

January 27, 2023

Community/Organization:

City of Abilene, Kansas, and City of Abilene Tree Board

Program/Project Scope:

Cost Share Program to remove and lower the percentage of hazard trees and planting trees that will diversify the species, while increasing the canopy coverage.

Implementation Strategy/Methodology:

Assess the tree canopy by completing the tree inventory. Help to remove, plant, and maintain trees in the right-of-way, especially for the disadvantaged citizens of Abilene who want to care for their trees in the right-of-way, but might not have adequate resources to determine and remove risk trees, and plant better trees.

Timeline (5-year period):

YEAR 1: Finish the tree inventory.

YEAR 2: Establish a cost share program to remove hazard/at-risk trees in the ROW.

YEAR 3: Plant trees to replace those that have been removed and create more diversity.

YEAR 4: Maintenance and establishment of trees planted.

YEAR 5: Maintenance and establishment of trees planted.

How does your application align with Congressional priorities:

Sustainability, wellness, and resilience will be increased in the City of Abilene by assessing the tree canopy and removing the hazard/at-risk trees and planting more diverse trees.



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Finish Tree Inventory – \$18,000

In November 2018 the City of Abilene contracted with Midland GIS Solutions to develop a custom tree inventory spatial dataset that could be used for future management by the City of Abilene. In the summer of 2019 Midland GIS staff members, Tree Board Members, KFS District Forester Kim Bomberger and City Staff inventoried a total of 1,488 right-of-way trees within the city limits of Abilene. Unfortunately, the original agreement didn't allow for enough time to complete the tree inventory. Approximately one-half of the city street trees were inventoried in 2018. Within the trees already inventoried, there were at risk trees noted, which have not been removed to date.

The City of Abilene requested an addendum quote from Midland to see what it would take to finish the tree inventory, but the summary of proposed costs far exceeded the Tree Board's annual budget, therefore the project was put on hold. The tree inventory has been kept on the back burner, but is still on the Tree Board's agenda.

At the present time Midland GIS Solutions is doing business as SAM Companies. As requested, SAM has quoted the City of Abilene a fee schedule of \$18,000 to complete the tree inventory. They will provide GPS field technicians and GPS equipment for data collection. The City of Abilene will need to provide personnel to identify attributes and tree characteristics during the GPS data collection, and for any costs incurred when providing personnel to accompany SAM for identification/attributes. Upon completion, SAM will provide a GIS deliverable that includes a map of the entire tree inventory for the City of Abilene in paper and digital format. The completed data will be integrated into the City's current web-based GIS website.

Trees are an asset to the City of Abilene and by completing our tree inventory it will play a huge role in tree risk management, maintenance, removal, and planting.

Tree & Stump Removal Cost Share Program – \$55,000

Right-of-way trees significantly improve the quality of life for all citizens of Abilene. By helping to protect and maintain community trees the City of Abilene can make the city healthier, more enjoyable, and livable for residents.

Currently, the Tree Board offers a cost share program that helps offset the cost to homeowners, so that they can plant trees within the right-of-way. With the rising cost of tree removals, the board would like to be able to add a program to offset the cost for homeowners to remove hazard/at-risk trees within the right-of-way, especially in areas of town where the property owner might not have the resources to do so.



With the threat of the ever-encroaching Emerald Ash Borer to Dickinson County, the Tree Board is in the process of reviewing and compiling the City's Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan. When the tree inventory has been completed, we will know the exact number of ash trees. We have 67 ash trees within the area already inventoried, with an estimated replacement value of more than \$110,000, from 2017 (the cost would be much higher now).

Plant Trees – \$35,000

Data collected on 1,588 trees collected in a partial inventory by the Kansas Forest Service shows that the City of Abilene has approximately 59 different species. There were 1,022 in good condition, that need some corrective pruning or repair, 364 were in fair condition, in need of pruning and some maintenance and 157 in declining or poor condition. The City of Abilene would like to concentrate on diversifying the species of trees while increasing the canopy. Currently, there are three species that exceed the recommend 10% for species composition, which include silver maple, hackberry and American elm combined for a total of 40.4%. Our commitment to plant desirable species of trees on public property will help protect the city from high loss due to storms, insects, and diseases.

Trees are a critical aspect of healthy and sustainable communities and crucial in reducing energy consumption and enhancing environmental well-being for the entire community. Success of a planting program is to: 1- correctly plant trees that are adapted for the site, 2-that minimize negative affects to the easement area, such as damage to sidewalks, curbing and utilities, 3-improve safety for people and property through having stronger trees that do not drop limbs, and 4-reduce urban heat islands while improving the appearance and climate of the urban area.

Another goal would be to lower the percentage of fair and poor rated trees, while increasing the percentage of excellent and good condition trees. Abilene's current aerial coverage includes tree canopy at 19.9%, grass cover of 34%, and bare ground at 17.9%. By determining where canopy coverage is needed, the Tree Board could identify alternative planting sights throughout the right-of-way. Ultimately the Tree Board would prefer to plant more trees than are removed.

Maintenance and Establishment – \$25,000

Trees provide a range of benefits, from helping with air quality to energy conservation and stormwater management, therefore maintaining existing trees, as well as establishing new trees is crucial. One of the goals of the Tree Board is to plant and establish better quality tree species as well as increase the quantity of trees,



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leaving long lasting canopy to benefit future generations. Our goal over the next 10-15 years is to increase the number of tree species by 11, to help with diversification, to lower the number of fair rated trees by 8% and increase the number of trees in excellent and good condition by 13%.

The maintenance plan will ensure that new trees get regular and adequate soil moisture for the first three years after planting. The Tree Board desires to purchase of a work series utility vehicle with a water storage tank that would allow Tree Board members and city staff to consistently water new tree plantings in easement areas to establish trees. This vehicle could also be used for accessing and documenting the health of trees, along with making continued updates to the tree inventory.