



**Abilene Tree Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Abilene Public Library – Malott Room**  
**209 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**March 21, 2023 – 5:30 pm**

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call:    \_\_\_ Drew Snitker \_\_\_ Tim Strunk \_\_\_ Hayley Whitehair  
                  \_\_\_ Vice-Chair Corey Jones \_\_\_ Chair Steven Flynn
3. Approval of Agenda – March 21, 2023
4. Approval of Minutes – February 28, 2023
5. Business
  - Arbor Day – Fourth Grade Foresters
  - Ordinance Review
  - City Forestry Standards and Specifications Review
  - Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan Review
6. Comments
7. Adjournment



**Abilene Tree Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Abilene Public Library – 209 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**February 28, 2023 – 5:30 pm**

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

**Members Absent:** none

**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, Strunk, and Whitehair

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Strunk made a motion to approve the agenda as written, and Whitehair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

**4. Approval of the Minutes from November 3, 2022**

Strunk made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Whitehair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

**5. Business**

- **Elections.**

Strunk made a motion to nominate Flynn as Chair. Whitehair seconded the motion. Whitehair made a motion to nominate Jones as Vice-Chair. Snitker seconded the motion. Both movements carried unanimously. (5-0)

- **Arbor Day Poster Contest**

Hiatt stated that several posters from St. Andrew's were turned in, and Eisenhower Elementary turned in none. The winning poster was turned in to the Manhattan office but was not the winner.

- **Tree City USA and Growth Award**

Hiatt stated that the City of Abilene would receive recognition for Tree City USA for the 31<sup>st</sup> year and will be awarded the Growth Award for the first time at the TCUSA Recognition on March 23, 2023, in Derby.

She also stated that she would not be able to attend. The deadline to register is March 7 if anyone would like to attend

- **Arbor Day – Fourth Grade Foresters**

Hiatt said the mayor would read the Arbor Day Proclamation at the April 24 meeting. The Arbor Day presentations at Eisenhower Elementary School and St. Andrew’s Elementary School will be held on April 28.

This year’s trees will be containerized Red Buds purchased from the Kansas Forest Service. The cost was slightly higher than last year, but they won’t have to be separated and put into individual bags.

Hiatt mentioned that she had priced an Arbor Day banner to hang up across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Last Chance Graphics came in at \$790, and Biz Swag came in at \$700.

Strunk made a motion to approve the purchase of the Arbor Day banner, and Whitehair seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (5-0)

- **Community Forestry IRA Funding**

Hiatt explained the process for the grant proposal.

- **Ordinance Review**

Hiatt stated that the city’s ordinance would need to be changed by the end of 2023, and there was further discussion.

- **Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan**

Hiatt stated that updating the ordinance is the priority, but ensuring that the city ordinance includes an EAB plan was also recommended, and there was further discussion.

## **6. Comments**

Hiatt stated that the Tree Board meetings are now published on Facebook and showed the board the artwork promoting the meetings.

There was discussion regarding an additional program that Flynn has proposed involving the possibility of doing a cost share to help plant trees on private property. Hiatt informed the group that she had been contacted by Scott Hargrave, ADM Milling, regarding free trees through the Living Lands Million Trees Project. The trees available were Red Oak, Bur Oak, Shagbark Hickory, and Swamp White Oak. The thought was that these trees could be handed out to property owners in correlation with celebrating Arbor Day.

Kari Zook, Community Development Director, contacted Hiatt regarding wanting to replace the 2 Hackberry trees that have been removed in the right of way at the city hall parking lot at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> and Broadway. There was further discussion regarding which trees would be best for that area.

## 7. Adjournment

The next meeting will be held on March 21.

Strunk motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Snitker seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (5-0), and the meeting was adjourned.

Attest

Minutes Approved,

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Jennie Hiatt  
Administrative Assistant

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Steve Flynn, Chair  
Corey Jones, Vice-Chair

CITY OF ABILENE  
STATE OF KANSAS

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, AND

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, AND

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, AND

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the vitality and beauty of our community, and provide an inviting environment for visitors, AND

WHEREAS, the City of Abilene has been recognized as a Tree City USA for the past 30 years by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue tree-planting and care of its trees.

NOW THEREFORE, I, TREVOR WITT, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, with the City Commission, do at this moment proclaim April 28, 2023, as Arbor Day in the City of Abilene and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, AND

Further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

IN TESTIMONY of which, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the City of Abilene, Kansas, this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of April 2023.

(ATTEST)

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Trevor Witt, Mayor

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Shayla L. Mohr  
City Clerk

# Abilene Tree Board 2023 Arbor Day Program

April 28, 2023

## Introduction of Fourth Grade Forester Program and Arbor Day

(Introduce yourself)

- We are celebrating with you Fourth Grade Foresters today because you are becoming responsible young people who care about what happens around you. Your understanding is growing each day. Today we are talking about something important, our environment and, more specifically, a member of the environment, our trees and what they mean to us.
- Since you are Fourth Grade Foresters today, we will discuss trees and how they benefit us and our environment. Later, each of you will get a tree to take home and plant. After we talk about trees inside, we will go outside to show you how to plant a tree properly.
- It is not new that we talk about trees; people have been celebrating the benefits of trees for more than 150 years in our area. Does anyone know what we might call the day when we recognize the contribution of trees to us? *Arbor Day*
- What is Arbor Day?
  1. A day to recognize an essential part of the environment: trees.
  2. A day to remember to plant and care for trees so they can help us.
  3. The very first Arbor Day was in 1872.
- Who started Arbor Day, and what did he do? *J. Sterling Morton*
  - A little history about J. Sterling Morton
    1. He settled in Nebraska in 1854, before it was even considered a state.
    2. He was a vital farmer and newspaperman in Nebraska.
    3. He served in the US Government. (Secretary of Agriculture)
    4. He wanted to help his neighbors live in the new place where they had moved.
    5. What was necessary for the new settlers of Kansas and Nebraska before statehood? *A home, some way to keep warm in winter, food to eat, clean water to drink, a way to make money.*
    6. What were Nebraska and Kansas like when people settled here in the 1850s?  
*Wilderness, grasslands, much fewer trees than today, no roads to travel.*
    7. What did Mr. Morton tell his neighbors they should do to live in the Nebraska and Kansas areas successfully? *He gave them essential farming tips and told them to plant trees and orchards.*
    8. He told people that trees would help them live in their new homes.

9. He also founded the now nearly worldwide celebrated Arbor Day. The first Arbor Day was held in Nebraska in 1872 (150 years ago).

10. Did you know that our own Kansas Forest Service is celebrating its 135<sup>th</sup> year of serving the people of Kansas in planting and caring for trees?

- How do trees grow?
  1. Leaves and photosynthesis
  2. Tree trunks and vessels/bark
  3. Roots, water, and nutrients
  4. Annual rings and how branches attach to the tree

- Importance of trees.

Did you know trees help us and the environment in several ways?

- Benefits of Trees.

➤ What do trees do for us?

- Some of the many benefits of trees are:

1. Provide wood for houses and furniture
2. Provide shade (Do you like to get in the shade of a tree when the sun is hot?)
3. Produce food (Do you like to eat apples, oranges, pears, peaches, or nuts?)
4. Protects us from cold winter winds
5. Provide beauty
6. Control pollution
7. Give homes for wildlife (What animals use trees for their homes?)
8. Produce air for us to breathe (Can you take a deep breath of clean air?)

- What do you think trees need to grow?

1. Water
2. Soil/dirt
3. Sunlight
4. People to care for them

## **Conclusion**

- What do you like most about trees?
- What is something that you could do to help our trees?