

Urban Forestry Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2025

1. Call to Order of the Urban Forestry Commission

Co-Chairperson Lugene Jones called the regular meeting of the Urban Forestry Commission to order at 4:31 PM, Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in Matt Terry Hall at the Public Safety Center (100 E First St) in Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in the City First Administration Building on April 4, 2025 at 10:14 AM.

Members Present: Co-Chairs Lugene Jones and Kurt Atkinson, Ed Cunliff, Justin Scott, Dena Bleeker.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leigh Martin, Ave Zrenda, Ken Bryan, Phil Jones

2. Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Dena Bleeker, seconded by Justin Scott to approve meeting minutes from January 8, 2025.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Guests.

Laura Pollard, Edmond Resident.

4. Urban Forestry Progress Report.

Leigh Martin gave an overview of information in the Urban Forestry Activity Report.

- Urban Forestry was the City Source Spotlight this month's Life and Leisure paper.
- Urban Forestry had two-page spread in The Edmond Way.
- There was a good turnout at Fink Park for the Parks and Rec's "Pop up Nature" workshop in which Urban Forestry went over winter tree discovery and not just foliage.
- Raziel Polach, Edmond Releaf Program, met with area schools to speak about the Project Learning Tree Curriculum with hopes to get the information out district wide. There will more information on this in the future.
- Leigh Martin is still interviewing for Urban Forestry Specialist.
- Seedling Distribution will take place at opening weekend of the Edmond Farmers Market.

5. Discussion and Consideration of City of Edmond Resiliency Plan.

Phil Jones gave a presentation on the City of Edmond Resiliency Plan. There were questions regarding sustainable landscaping in East Edmond, water quality, and funding from the EEDA.

Dena Bleeker made a motion to endorse and seconded by Ed Cunliff.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Review of 2025 Arbor Week Celebration.

- 315 people attended the Trees in Our Town reception.
- Urban Forestry Scavenger Hunt was a success.
- 58 volunteers participated in the Arbor Day Tree Planting and planted 27 trees at Hafer Park.
- Edmond received the Tree City USA and Tree Line USA recognition.

7. Discussion and Consideration of Urban Forestry Commission Officers.

Nominations will be in April starting this year.

Lugene Jones was nominated for Co-Chair, motion by Kurt Atkinson and seconded by Ed Cunliff.
Kurt Atkinson was nominated for Co-Chair, motion by Ed Cunliff and seconded by Justin Scott.

Motions passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of Community Forestry Plan.

The plan was last updated in August 2024. There was discussion about tie in with tree planting and the Route 66 Centennial Celebration. Leigh said there was a discussion a while ago about some tree planting initiatives that would take place in conjunction with the Centennial, but she has not received any recent updates. There was additional discussion about an educational campaign about Firewise principles in response to recent wildfire concerns. There was discussion about reaching out to Sandra Naifeh about Edmond Beautiful/creating a nonprofit partnership. Lugene asked if there is a way that Bill Begley could feature firewise.org in Life and Leisure.

9. Citizen Comments.

Mark, who lives in East Edmond, is concerned about rapid decay of East Edmond's identity and tree canopy. He lives near Coffee Creek and Westminster. He asks what can the public do to help find a solution. The Commission suggests speaking to your representative, going to public meetings and being an active part of the community.

10. Comments from the Urban Forestry Commission Chair and Members.

None.

11. Adjournment.

Motion made by Kurt Atkinson, seconded by Justin Scott, to adjourn the Urban Forestry Commission meeting at 5:48 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.



Lugene Jones

Co-Chairperson, Urban Forestry Commission



Kurt Atkinson

Co-Chairperson, Urban Forestry Commission