

Urban Forestry Commission Minutes
Regular Meeting
September 10, 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 4:32 PM, Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in Main Street Conference Room A at the City Hall (22 E Main St) in Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in the City First Administration Building on September 5, 2025 at 9:16 AM.

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

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Leigh Martin, Shain Armstrong, Ava Zrenda, Ken Bryan, Zach Paty

2. Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Dena Bleeker, seconded by Justin Scott to approve meeting minutes from June 11, 2025.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. Introduction of Guests.

John Harkess, Edmond Citizen.

4. Urban Forestry Progress Report.

Leigh Martin discussed updates to the activity report template and gave an overview of information in the Urban Forestry Activity Reports from June, July and August.

- Shain Armstrong was hired as the new Urban Forestry Specialist. Shain introduced himself.
- Randy Arneros achieved the Utility Specialist credential through International Society of Arboriculture. Shain Armstrong and Raziel Polach achieved Certified Arborist credentials.
- Tree maintenance has taken place in Johnson Park, Fink Park, Gracelawn Cemetery, Stephenson Park, and Hafer Park
- Edmond ReLeaf's web site is now live.
- Applications for Edmond Tree Grants opened in July
- Edmond Tree Mail has been refreshed and the summer issue was sent out. Staff is working on the fall issue now.
- Ava Zrenda is leading a collaborative effort with staff from multiple departments to create a Trails Design Guide.
- Through Edmond ReLeaf, Raziel Polach led Project Learning Tree facilitator training for Edmond Public Schools educators
- Planned the fall volunteer event schedule, including site visits and planting plans for multiple parks to prepare tree planting projects.
- Trees were inspected for pruning needs at Ida Freeman and Russell Dougherty through ReLeaf.
- Several events are scheduled for the fall including tree plantings, tree distributions, and outreach.

5. Consideration of Approval of Edmond Tree Grants Applications.

Three applications for Edmond Tree Grants were received, and applicants included Rock Hollow HOA, Thomas Trail HOA, and Redbud Elementary School. Leigh noted that Thomas Trail HOA and Redbud Elementary have both successfully completed past Edmond Tree Grant projects.

Motion made by Ed Cunliff to approve all three applications, seconded by Justin Scott.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion of Urban Forestry Volunteer Program Updates.

Leigh Martin discussed updates to Urban Forestry's Volunteer Program. Changes include transitioning event listings and registration to CivicRec, the software used by the Parks Department for programs and events, from Signup Genius. One of the benefits of this transition is the ability to include a digital waiver release form with registration. In addition to this update, a new Volunteer Opportunity notification list has been created through the City web site for upcoming volunteer events.

7. Discussion of 2025 Urban Forestry Commission Goals.

- Connect tree planting efforts with the Route 66 Centennial celebration.
- Develop an education campaign on Firewise land management practices.
- Partner with a nonprofit to obtain funding and support for Urban Forestry Commission projects.
- Plan potential educational programming for the Charles D. Lamb Nature Preserve.

8. Citizen Comments.

There were no citizen comments.

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

There were no comments from Urban Forestry Commission members.

10. Adjournment.

Motion made by Dena Bleeker, seconded by Ed Cunliff to adjourn the Urban Forestry Commission meeting at 5:14 PM.

Motion passed unanimously.



Lugene Jones

Co-Chairperson, Urban Forestry Commission



Kurt Atkinson

Co-Chairperson, Urban Forestry Commission