



Tree Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mohith Reddy Kondlapudi, City of Kalamazoo
Patrick McVerry, City of Kalamazoo
Thomas Dewhurst, City of Kalamazoo
Tom Palumbo, City of Kalamazoo

Others Present: Caleb Leonard, Resident
Alex Salas, Recording Secretary

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Tom Palumbo

B. Roll Call

Completed, quorum is present

C. Introduction of Guests – Caleb Leonard

D. Approval of Agenda

Mohith Reddy Kondlapudi made a motion to approve today's agenda, seconded by Patrick McVerry, **motion passed.**

E. Approval of February 3rd, 2026, Draft Minutes

Patrick McVerry made a motion to approve the February 3rd, 2026, meeting minutes, seconded by Thomas Dewhurst, **motion passed.**

F. New Business - None

G. Old Business

- a. 430 Elm Street Site Plan from - June 2025 meeting motion to come back for location, species and planting dates for four new trees that replaced the tree taken down in 2025.

Tom Palumbo says this item will continue onto next month's agenda. Brian LaBelle will be the one looking into this and seeing that the plantings have been installed.

b. Arbor Day

Tom Dewhurst says that he doesn't know of any tree planting activities planned. Patrick McVerry says that he knows there are some trees that Brian has identified and will hopefully get planted in Bronson Park. He spoke with Deputy Director Johnson who is on board but there are some approvals that need to go in front of the City Manager's office and if they are in approval then approval is needed from the County Administration. Brian is talking about the open quadrant in the North-East corner of the park that doesn't have many trees there. Tom Palumbo asks if this would be a public event and Patrick says yes but there hasn't been any announcement sent out yet, they want to confirm that they can do it. Members confirm that the date for Arbor Day is April 17th, 2026. Discussion ensued.

c. Update on Consumers Energy's Canopy Trimming

Tom Palumbo says this item will also continue onto next month's agenda when Caleb Thompson from Consumers Energy is present.

H. Action Items – No Update

I. Public Comment

Caleb Leonard with Reforest Vine would like to find a partnership with the City where water from flushing hydrants is used to water younger trees rather than just going down the drains. Thinks it would be a low cost, high effectiveness long term investment. Tom Dewhurst asks if there are streets in the Vine neighborhood that are concentrated with new plantings and Caleb answers Oak has a dozen or so.

Trimming of lines are being individually and selectively cleared and waste is being left behind. Caleb asks and expects that the City enforces the existing codes on the books and tells Consumers and Spectrum the rules and expectations of how they go about trimming. Tom Dewhurst asks if there is trimming waste that has been sitting for long periods of time and Caleb answers yes, they are 75-100lbs logs. Patrick McVerry mentions the same thing being done about 4 years ago when they went through and cleared Spring Valley Park, says there was a reason for them leaving the wood behind. Caleb says everything left is in the right of way. Caleb would like to talk to Caleb from Consumers Energy to see how to go about fixing this. Tom Palumbo mentions we have coordination with Consumers and other utilities, but forestry is kind of its own group. Discussion ensued.

Committee Comments - None

J. Adjournment

Tom Palumbo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Patrick McVerry, **and the motion passed.** The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Submitted by: _____ Date: _____
Recording Secretary

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Staff Liaison