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# Press Release

## Beautification and Tree Advisory Board approves bench design

*Citizen members also discuss Nelson Award, Wilson Park, animal ordinance*

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (August 27, 2015) — The Arkansas City Beautification and Tree Advisory Board had its fourth monthly meeting with its new members on Thursday.

Board members picked the Nelson Sensation Award and Yard of the Season award winners for the month of September. The recipients will be announced each week on Facebook and in the Traveler.

Citizens may nominate a yard for the board's consideration for either award by emailing the address — and, if they like, a photo — of the yard to board secretary Terice Watts at [twatts@arkansascityks.gov](mailto:twatts@arkansascityks.gov).

Prior to five new citizens' being appointed to the board by the City Commission in May, the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board had just one member and had become largely inactive.

Board members present Thursday were Michelle Dykes, Bob Foster, Steven Walker and Jill Wineinger. Kammy Downs and Candace Stephens were absent.

The board meets at noon on the last Thursday of each month, except November, which has no meeting, and December, when it meets in the middle of the month because of the holidays. The board's next meeting will be at noon Sept. 24 in the city manager's office at City Hall.

### Lions Club memorial bench

The Beautification Advisory Board voted to approve the finalized design for a granite memorial bench that the Arkansas City Lions Club would like to install in Ben Givens Center City Park.

Lions Club members Kenneth Gilmore and Charles Kennedy presented a preliminary design last month to the board, which tentatively approved it pending the final design.

**For immediate release**

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Wineinger made a motion to request that part of the final design be changed, but the motion died for lack of a second. Walker decided to abstain from voting because of a family connection.

The Lions Club will pay for the cost of the memorial, which will be made by Dawson Monument.

City crews will maintain it as part of Ben Givens Park after it is installed.

The board is responsible for the approval of permanent memorials and other fixtures, as laid out in Municipal Code. It then makes recommendations to the City Commission of Arkansas City.

The City Commission will have to approve the final design as part of its consent agenda during its next meeting at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the commission room at City Hall, 118 W. Central Ave.

### **Other business**

City Manager Nick Hernandez informed the board that the City had been awarded a \$33,500 grant from the V.J. Wilkins Memorial Foundation to complete a master plan for Wilson Park.

The City Commission on Tuesday will consider an agreement with Wichita-based LK Architecture to design two master plans — one for the park itself, and one for both the park and the adjacent vacant lot to the north that used to be the site of South Central Kansas Regional Medical Center.

The former hospital was torn down earlier this year.

The scope of the master plan agreement also includes a full architectural and boundary survey, as well as final deliverables to include perspective renderings of the final design, an animation flythrough, a master plan rendering, and a cost estimate and phasing plan.

Hernandez also said the City is leaning toward replacing problematic downtown trees with crape myrtles, which can be pruned into a tree shape and alternate between purple and orange blossoms.

Walker asked about the possibility of appointing a board chair or president. Hernandez encouraged members to organize as they wanted, and challenged them to find more ways to become active.

The board also discussed issues related to sanitation and recycling, and concluded with a lengthy discussion about the City's current ordinance regarding livestock and other large animals.

The consensus of the board was that the current requirement of 100 feet between animal enclosures and any neighboring structures was too strict and could be reduced to 50 feet, but that other aspects of the ordinance, including requiring half an acre of space for each animal, should be enforced.