

Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas



Economic Development & Finance Meeting
5th Floor Conference Room
701 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66101

Commissioner Tom Burroughs, Chair

*Commissioner Gayle Townsend – Commissioner Chuck Stites – Commissioner Bill Burns –
Commissioner Phil Lopez – Stevie Wakes, BPU Board Member*

MINUTES

Monday, August 4, 2025
5:03 PM-5:22 PM

Attendance:

Committee Members Present:

- Commissioner Burroughs (Chair)
- Commissioner Stites
- Commissioner Lopez
- Commissioner Townsend

Committee Members Absent:

- Mr. Wakes (BPU Board)
- Commissioner Burns

Staff Present:

- Maiyee Lor (Deputy Unified Government Clerk)
- Alan Howze (Assistant County Administrator)
- Wendy Green (Chief Deputy Legal Counsel)
- Angel Ferrera (Director, Parks and Recreation)
- Vincent Billaci (Park Manager)
- Justin Ukena (Operations Supervisor, Parks)
- Matthew Zayas (Fiscal Officer, Parks)

Call to Order:

Commissioner Burroughs called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Revisions to Agenda:

The Clerk reported that there were no revisions to the agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes: (Discussion Begins 2:24)

Commissioner Townsend moved to approve the minutes of the April 29 and June 3, 2024, meetings as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Lopez, Stites, Townsend, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Burns, Wakes

Committee Agenda:**Item 4.1 - RESOLUTION: KANSAS FOREST SERVICE GRANT (Discussion Begins 3:11)**

Vincent Billaci, Park Manager, presented details of the second round Kansas Forest Service Grant application for \$100,000 with no matching funds required. This follows a successful first round application in November 2024 where the county was awarded \$100,000.

Key Points:**Grant Details:**

- **Timeline:** Two years to utilize funds (clarification pending on end date - 2026 vs 2027)
- **Application Deadline:** August 22, 2025
- **Requirements:** Work must be in areas identified as overburdened and underserved according to the economic and climate justice screening tool
- **Tree Ratio:** Must maintain 2:1 planting to removal ratio

Planned Activities:

- **First Round:** Tree plantings at Kensington Park, Klammm Park, Jersey Creek Park, Clopper Field, Huron Park, and Leo Alvey Park (120-150 trees anticipated)
- **Second Round:** Dead and dangerous tree removal at Quindaro Park, Kensington Park, Klammm Park, Clopper Field, Huron Park, City Park, Pearson, Edgerton, Ruby, Bethany Parkwood, and median at 73rd and Parallel

Partnership: Bridging the Gap nonprofit is also applying for the same grant and would coordinate plantings within Kansas City, Kansas if awarded.

The Chairman opened the public hearing. No comments were received. The Chairman closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Townsend moved to adopt the resolution for the Kansas Forest Service Grant and to fast-track the item to the Board of Commissioners meeting on August 7, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Lopez, Stites, Townsend, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Burns, Wakes

Adjournment: (Discussion Begins 19:27)

Commissioner Townsend moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lopez.

Vote: Motion carried 4-0

- Ayes: Lopez, Stites, Townsend, Burroughs
- Nays: None
- Absent: Burns, Wakes

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

MLS