



AGENDA

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

7651 E. Central Park Ave, Bel Aire, KS

Video Available at belaireks.gov

June 10, 2025 7:00 PM



I. Tree Board Discussion

A. Letter, Tree Board Request 2025.06.03

II. 2026 Budget Workshop #1

Notice

It is possible that sometime between 6:30 and 7:00 PM immediately prior to this meeting, during breaks, and directly after the meeting, a majority of the Governing Body may be present in the Council Chambers or the lobby of City Hall. No one is excluded from these areas during these times. Video of this meeting can be viewed at www.belaireks.gov or can be streamed on YouTube. Please make sure all cell phones and other electronics are turned off and put away.

City Council Meeting June 3, 2025
Tree Board Request

The Bel Aire Tree Board have been concerned about the lack of protection of the trees and native spaces in recent developments. The City notifies only people within 200 feet of the development about their proposed changes. In reality everyone is affected by the Development whether they are 100 feet from the Development or on the opposite side of town. New Developments affect every property owner, from the infrastructure demands to the future value of our properties. If a Development should destroy the roads due to their use of heavy equipment we, the citizens, pay the price for the building of new roads. If the Development is not created using Best Practices in Neighborhood development like connected roads and sidewalks, parks and green spaces, and mixed used principles the value of the development will not hold and over time it will become an eyesore decreasing the overall value of all properties in the city.

We are asking the City to change their Ordinance to include notification of all developments utilizing public communication systems, like the Breeze as well as in the Water Bill, so that all citizens have the opportunity to review, consider and respond to the Developers' plan. We are all affected so we all should have the opportunity to respond. The Developer will have the added benefit of getting feedback from people that care about the quality of his plan and make adjustments before he obligates him or herself to future financial obligations. Financial institutions will appreciate the security of such Developments that have vetted the plan utilizing the community. This process makes us stronger and more responsive to the needs of the citizens as well as resilient to changes in the environment.

We have seen, and appreciate, the improvements in access to information about City functions recently. It is still a challenge to find things but the changes are noticed and appreciated. We have to spend time to find about the upcoming Development and then must get the plans and determine when and to whom, to express our concerns. Usually we are seeing this information after the fact , and worse, after the building has already started. By this time, any input we have seems far too late. For these reasons we would like to be notified, with a link to the plans and proposals, of any developments so we can look over the plans for tree coverage, check the area for natural watershed systems and native spaces, and watch for the inclusion of open spaces and community connectivity. Our task is to ensure that we protect the Tree Canopy. By protecting the Tree Canopy we help keep our water clean and decrease the heat island effect. We, the Tree Board, are

more affective if we are aware of the future development plans and can give input into the preservation of natural systems that will help us preserve and maintain clean air and water, as well as provide an effective tree canopy to lower city temperatures. We ask that you change the ordinance so we are notified of the Development, provided access to the plans, given contact information, and time to respond with our concerns. This will give us a tool to do our job in protecting the Tree Canopy for a sustainable future.

There is a lot of destruction of our watershed that causes the waters from rain to rush into our drainage system causing flooding and damage. The areas around drain pipes is often sprayed with Roundup killing the plant material around the pipes. The soil loses the plant material that once held it and washes into the creek. You can see large areas of exposed soils that wash away into the ponds, lakes and waterways. This increases flooding, causing these areas to need dredging to clean out so they are functioning to protect us instead of flooding our streets and neighborhoods. In some of these spaces bushes or other plant material can be put in place and in others simply not weed eating or spraying would help. By notifying residents not to spray Roundup, or other herbicides would help keep these areas more functional for a longer period of time. We have seen numerous times people spraying Roundup along waterways to kill the plant material. The plant material they kill off first is usually sedges that look pretty nice, and what survives it the ragy, and invasive plants that can withstand RoundUp. Leaving cord grass and sedges, plains Coreopsis and clovers in place increases the beauty and holds the soil.

We pay landscaping firms to care for large areas of our community. They use granular fertilizer that causes our water systems load up with nutrients. These water bodies, with big nutrient loads, frequently become toxic with blue green algae blooms. By putting into the contract with all lawn care companies they cannot use fertilizers and must leave the grass clippings, we can save money [on fertilizer] and make our waters safer by decreasing he nutrient load. This same requirement can, and should be, made for all lawn care companies in our community. We are all paying the cost, indirectly, of cleaning the toxins that are created from blue green algae blooms. We can be the leaders in this metropolitan area of creating the safest community, not just in crime, but in our developments, our lakes, ponds, creeks and natural systems.