

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 22, 2012 – 4:15pm
Cravath Lakefront Room – 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Citizen Comments: No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a 3 minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time, however, citizens are invited to speak to those issues as designated on the agenda. There is a 3 minute limit on those comments as well.
5. Planning and Architectural Board report (Coburn)
Landscape questions re: proposed addition to property at corner of Franklin and Walworth
6. Parks and Recreation Board Report (Knedler).
7. Review of UFC operating documents, i.e. mission statements/ “administrative rules”
8. Tree Cuts/Tree Pruning (list from Nass, if any)
9. Future Agenda items
10. Adjourn Next Meeting : Tuesday, June 26, 2012

Summary of Goals:

According to the City Ordinance 1752 A, the UFC will prepare and recommend for adoption by the Park and Recreation Board and the City Council, an Urban Forestry Management Plan.*

This Plan, in effect, will consist of the policies that will then be implemented by the City Forester with the UFC acting as an Advisory Board.

In addition, per direction of the City Council at its December 15, 2009 meeting, the UFC was charged with developing standards relating to lawns, rain gardens, and other modern landscape features thereby modifying the existing ordinance. These changes may also serve to further green sustainability for Whitewater’s future. This was to be brought back to the City Council.

*Since the former policies included in the old Forestry Guidelines and Specifications Manual were never approved by the City Council, we will evaluate and update them for inclusion in the Urban Forestry Management Plan. Some policies will surely remain the same, as there would be no need “to reinvent the wheel” .

September 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: CITY COUNCIL

RE: WHITEWATER URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT POLICY

Dear Councilmembers:

I have attached a proposed resolution adopting the Whitewater Urban Forestry Management policy as well as the Whitewater Urban Forestry Management Plan. As you may recall, I had previously sent you a memo indicating that we needed Council action concerning how the policy would be implemented in practice. Since I wrote that memo, I met with Kevin Brunner, Chuck Nass, Matt Admundon and Urban Forestry Commission Chairman Tiu Gray-Fow. At that meeting the City staff and Tiu Gray-Fow, acting as Chairman of the Urban Forestry Commission, reached an agreement as it relates to recommended resolution language for implementation of the plan. This resolution incorporates that agreement.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Wallace K. McDonell

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF WHITEWATER
URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHEREAS, the City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission is a committee of the City of Whitewater Park and Recreation Board and is responsible for the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Urban Forestry Commission has completed an Urban Forestry Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, the plan has been reviewed and accepted by the Park and Recreation Board, and

WHEREAS, the plan is a sound and valuable plan for the City of Whitewater for Urban Forestry Management.

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Whitewater, Walworth and Jefferson Counties, hereby adopts the Urban Forestry Management Plan. The adoption of this plan establishes required standards for City staff and City employees, unless the City Forester gives specific direction based on his or her professional judgment to deviate from the plan.

Resolution introduced by Councilmember _____, who moved its adoption. Seconded by Councilmember _____.

AYES:

NOES:

Kevin Brunner, City Manager

ABSENT:

Michele R. Smith, City Clerk

ADOPTED:

WHITEWATER URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT POLICY (F.D.)
(TYPED 08-30-11 – 1:30 P.M.)

INTRODUCTION

The city’s urban forestry management plan is administered by the Park and Recreation Board in conjunction with the Urban Forestry Commission serving in an advisory capacity. It is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Director, the UFC, the City Forester and other department staff to provide for green sustainability in the community. The city staff, sometimes in conjunction with contracted professional services, is charged with the regulating and control of planting, transplanting, removal, maintenannce, preservation and protection of public trees and shrubs in the city. Other areas of impact in maintaining a proper urban forestry plan in the community will also be addressed.

THE URBAN FORESTRY MISSION STATEMENT

The Urban Forestry commission shall serve as an advisory adjunct to the Whitewater Park and Recreation Board in the administration of the City’s Urban Forestry program. This plan shall be carried out, in large part, by the City Forester and staff. The UFC shall also advise policy by referral from the City Manager, the Plan and Architectural Review Commission and the City Council.

The UFC shall advise a policy for the development of a green sustainability program. This policy will guide the care, preservation, planting, pruning, and removal of trees and shrubs along all city streets and public spaces. It shall also review an annual planting plan prepared by the city forester and carried out by city labor and/or volunteers as overseen by said forester.

The UFC shall also serve in an advisory capacity to the Park and Recreation Board, as well as the Plan and Architectural Review Commission and the City Council upon request, as the City preserves and grows its environmental base (i.e. parks, greenbelts, secondary environmental corridors, wetlands, woodlands, lakes, waterways, natural conservancies, and archeological sites).

I. UFC ANNUAL PLANTING POLICY

- A. The city Forester shall prepare an annual preliminary planting plan to be submitted to the UFC for review by the end of November. This plan, indicating budgeting and ordering needs for the tree program, may be modified by budget deliberations.
 - a. The planting plan shall state where large or small trees are appropriate. Small trees shall be used where overhead utilities exist, with their mature height compatible to clearance requirements. Large trees shall be used elsewhere unless unusual or special circumstances dictate otherwise. All varieties of trees used shall be approved and submitted by the city forester, in conjunction with UFC review.
 - b. The plan shall be based on a *quadrant* strategy, assuring an orderly and effective result. Only a property owner’s request (within policy and

**ORDINANCE CREATING CHAPTER 19.56
YARD MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

The Common Council of the City of Whitewater, Walworth and Jefferson Counties, do hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1: Whitewater Municipal Chapter 19.56 is hereby created to read as follows:

YARD MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

19.56.010 Purpose

The purpose of this yard management ordinance is to address concerns regarding landscaping in the City of Whitewater. Natural landscapes and gardens are viable alternatives to lawn development as they can be economical, low-maintenance, effective in soil and water conservation, and may ~~reduce preclude~~ the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. This ordinance is consistent with the goals of the Whitewater Comprehensive Plan referenced in Chapter (4), Natural Resources pp 35, 38-44. Because the State of Wisconsin has prohibited yard waste in any solid waste disposal facility; has increased percentage regulations on storm water run-off and has laws that protect the chemical invasion of lakes, streams and wetlands by lawn products, this legislation should enable the City to progress in achieving said State regulation. It ~~should be~~ is hereby noted that these landscape alternatives are no more or less appropriate than turf grass yard choices in regard to the visual appeal of individual properties. It is also important to note that the intent of this ordinance is not to allow vegetated areas to be unmanaged. Control of noxious, invasive weeds ~~must be exercised~~ shall be required in all any landscape plans.

THEREFORE:

19.56.020 Natural Gardens Allowed

Section 1:

(a) A Natural Heritage Garden, Ornamental Garden, Rain Garden and/or Sustenance Garden may be planted if it is in compliance with the following provisions:

- (1) ~~A~~ The garden does not violate any other City of Whitewater ordinance.
- (2) ~~B~~ The garden is authorized by the owner or occupier with written permission as verified by owner.
- (3) ~~C~~ The garden, or any portion thereof, does not encroach on any property ownership line or public right of way.
- (4) ~~D~~ The owner or occupier complies with the notice provisions of Section 2 below: