

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, July 24, 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. Approval of minutes for June 26, 2012
5. Citizens are invited to speak to agenda items as they appear on the agenda. There is a 3 minute limit on these comments.
6. Planning and Architectural Board Report (Coburn)
7. Parks and Recreation Board Report (Knedler)
Treyton Field of Dreams update
8. Emerald Ash Borer in Walworth County-impact on Whitewater
(To access Whitewater's EAB Plan go to the City of Whitewater's website at www.whitewater-wi.gov, then to Departments, to Parks and Recreation, to Forestry, then scroll to Emerald Ash Borer Plan) - update (Nass)
9. Brainstorming on methods to galvanize citizen involvement in a Private/Public response to save our ash trees. (James Hartwick – either on 7/24/12 or 8/28/12 meeting) .
10. Extra trees for Cravath Lake Park – Carnival manager's input (Coburn, McCulloch)
11. Bird City update (Nass)
12. Proposed yearly calendar draft (Nass)
13. Tree cuts/pruning/other maintenance or construction related updates;
Tree watering update (Nass)
14. 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.
15. Future Agenda items
16. Adjourn

Next Meeting : Tuesday, August 28, 2012

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 26 2012**

Call to order by Chairperson, Andrew Crone.

Roll call:

Members present: Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Bev Stone

Absent: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Brandon Knedler, Jay Craggs

City staff present: Chuck Nass

Citizens present: David Salsaa

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Andrew Crone, second by Karen Coburn,
Unanimous approval.

Approval of minutes for April 24, 2012 and May 22, 2012 meetings:

Motion by Karen McCulloch, second by Karen Coburn.
Unanimous approval.

Planning and Architectural Board Report (Coburn)

Nothing to report from Coburn. Nass stated that Golden State Foods is making an addition to their offices. Planting 30 new trees and 36 ne bushes, wild flowers and wetlands. They will be moving berm. It has been approved by staff but has not been submitted to the planning board yet. Karen Coburn asks about considering, native. Nass customarily asks that something native be planted in new plans.

Parks and Recreation Board Report. Ray Trots Nature Preserve (Knedler).

Nass says things have been planted at park and some has been taken out. K and W paid for benches etc. Funding from Trost memorial fund paid for a placard.

Brandon Knedler joined the meeting at this point.

Knedler discussed work on Indian mounds restoration. One question being raised is what to do with grass on mounds. It was stated that they could try different things

on different mounds to test it. Stump grinding on new path placements requires coordination with the appropriate Indian Tribe.

Looking at signing options as part of the trail system. Crone mentioned that the bike planning committee is looking at signage as well. Weevil is the insect to eat Asian milfoil. Is it a native species?

Emerald Ash Borer in Walworth County-impact on Whitewater (To access Whitewater.

Nass stated that the Ash Bore is in Rock County too. Trees taken down can be used as used as firewood, but it has to stay in county. We are in quarantine. Our designated area for disposing of trees will be at the compost site. The Ash Bore is not in Whitewater yet. We have funds for the Ash Bore, but its been used by city on other projects. We will treat the 9 – 16 inch trees, but not the older trees. There has been no definitive decision not to save bigger trees. Bigger trees will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Some costs will be paid by reducing tree planting. A wasp that eats the bore is out, but beetle has to be there before wasp will show up. All information is on the Whitewater's website. 13.3% of our trees are ash. No trees will be removed unless they are dying or in decline. Funding is the criteria for treating. Once the Bore is on a tree, it is too late to treat. Any tree in town with a red tag nailed to it is an Ash.

Possible Joint meeting with down town Design Committee in August or September.

Nass has done a survey of trees, The Brass Rail is a 4-inch maple. Probably won't be replaced. Only 4 types of trees are downtown, an Autumn Blaze Maple, Linden, Ash and Honey Locust. The goal is not to remove the trees. Most trees wont' live for 20 years. The Ash are struggling. Whole sidewalk in Burgee's Jeweler will have to come out. The city is looking into using a pervious surface around the trees rather than the metal grates. Nass suggested the joint meeting be moved back to September. A tree in front of Roses will need to come out, it will be replaced with a Gingko. Coburn requested some Gingko be planted east of alley by Brass Rail.

Proposed yearly calendar details.

Nass will tell the Urban Forestry Committee dates specific tasks need to be placed on our Agenda.

Tree cuts/pruning or maintenance or construction related.

Nass stated that there are no cuts this month, The North Street project is done, three trees were planted (more than before), Milwaukee: 13 trees were on the cut list 6 were cut, 2 removed. We will need to wait to see on some areas for laterals for water to homes, Private trees will come down as part of project. Regarding the Clay street nature park, Black Cherries cause fungus on them. Tree saplings taken out to promote turtle hatching areas. Other trees were taken out to be in compliance with storm water laws. Area is designated as a storm water retention area. It acts to filter water before going into the lake

All trees are watered upon planting. Watered daily in pea gravel when the city first gets them. 320 trees are being watered plus 650 trees at the s farm. There is only one buggy to water with. 2 trees have been taken out. 10 gallons per tree 300-gallon truck. Budget has been cut 4% per year. The request to ask citizens to water terrace trees is on the banner today. The city is trying to arrange for 12 hours of continuous shifts for watering.

Citizen Comments

Dave Saalsaa spoke. He stated the Downtown Whitewater committee is looking at a plan for streetscape improvements, like new garbage receptacles, plantings and trees. He mentioned that trees are an asset to draw people downtown. People will spend more time there.

Future Agenda items

Nass suggested the September Downtown Whitewater joint meeting be conducted as a study session rather than a regular meeting. Coburn suggested we discuss filling in more trees at the Cravath Lake Park.

Adjourn

Motion by **Karen Coburn**, second by **Andrew Crone**,

Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:
Andrew Crone

Emerald Ash Borer Beetle Ideas for Mobilizing Citizens to Save the Ash Trees of Whitewater (Hartwick)

Whitewater, *Tree City*, faces a challenge—like the Dutch Elm disease we faced in the past—from the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle. However, this time we can do something to protect our trees, and ultimately, we could be a model city for dealing with this potential crisis.

1. Education Programs on the Emerald Ash Borer Beetle and potential prevention/management program(s) – UW Extension (Mike Maddox)/ State Department of Agriculture (Mick Skwarok)/ Whitewater City Forester,(Chuck Nass)
 - a. Educate public on the problem
 - b. Education on prevention/management
 - c. Ideas for systemic approaches to management
 - d. Emphasize the cost effectiveness of prevention over tree removal (include actual dollar amounts)
2. Use the Whitewater Banner, the press, the university, the community cable channel, public forums carried on cable channel, radio stations, presentations to civic groups, churches, etc. to educate the community
3. Neighborhood associations and community members could work collectively (by neighborhood or block, etc.) to cost effectively treat private and potentially public trees.
 - a. Volume treatment discounts (private or public) – for neighborhoods
 - b. Partnering with the city – City could treat the terrace ash trees and provide discount for the tree treatment (even after work). The city could raise some funds to support the treatment of city, terrace, and park etc. trees.
 - c. Volume discounts for tree removal (public/private)
 - d. Council members/districts could be used to organize neighborhoods and sub-communities.
4. Private/Public Partnership -Start a fund drive to protect our ash trees. – The “Protect our Ash” fund.
 - a. Find large donors
 - b. Community contributions
 - c. Work with civic groups, employers, church groups, etc.
 - d. Possibly set up formal Emerald Ash Borer Action Committee as “clearinghouse” to keep citizens and city staff aware of activities - to reduce duplication, and to serve as contact for the various work groups that may interest a citizen.
5. City could deputize assistants to help with treating trees – A trained arborist could oversee the work of several volunteers and/or paid assistants.

6. Involve the University –
 - a. Service-Learning opportunities to help the university, the city, and the community.
 - b. UWW Landscaping Committee – develop a plan with the city and interested community members.
7. Like a school assessment, we could create a tree assessment – \$10 to \$50 per property city wide to support the effort. (Develop a budget and identify the proper fee.)
8. Identify at risk trees – Coded Ribbons