

City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission Meeting

**Tuesday, September 22, 2015, 4:30 PM
Cravath Lakefront Room, 2nd floor City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190**

Agenda

Citizens are invited to speak to agenda items as they appear on the agenda. Participants are allowed a 3 minute speaking period.

Call to Order:

Roll Call:

Approval of Agenda: Items can be removed or changed but not added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from August 25, 2015 and July 28, 2015

Staff Report: City Forester: (Nass)

**Planting update: tree pruning/maintenance
map for 2016 quadrant planting
native plantings
invasive species control**

Bird City/Bird Talk: (information and comments)

Chimney Swift Tower progress report: (Coburn)

Downtown Festival: (Stanek)

Artrageous Bird Show at the CAC Gallery: (Coburn)

Bluebird houses: (Schoen)

Website: (Zarinnia)

Plan Board: (Stanek)

Parks and Recreation: (Knedler)

Effigy Mounds update:

Hearing citizen comments: No formal action will be taken during this meeting, although issues raised may become part of a future agenda. Participants are allowed a 3 minute speaking period.

Park visit: None scheduled for this meeting

Adjournment:

Next meeting: October 27, 2015

Urban Forestry Commission Minutes, July 28, 2015

Roll Call: Present: Karen Coburn, Anne Zarinnia, Beverly Stone, Teri Smith, Sherry Stanek

Absent: Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Visitors: Kori Oberle and Jerry Schoen

Approval of Agenda: Coburn requested removal of Meadowsweet Park visit due to time constraints. Stone so moved. Stanek seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of minutes from June 23, 2015. Oberle requested 2 changes regarding the Effigy Mounds. The first was to remove “to make small paths more apparent” and replace with “at the request of Midwest Prairie”. The second was to remove “would like to use ground penetrating radar” and replace with “has been asked to use LiDAR to differentiate the mound’s borders”. Stanek corrected the minutes. Zarinnia voted to approve. Smith seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Alternate member: Coburn reported that approval by the Park Board was given for an alternate member. It will be voted on by the Common Council.

Staff report: Trees are being watered, especially now because of so little rain. Stone reported that she was working with Walton to keep a recently moved tree well watered.

Stone read an article from the Kenosha paper about how trees create healthier and happier lives for the community.

Jerry Schoen reported that many trees in his area had died and were replanted. A tree on Foxglove is leaning and needs staking. He suggested our website have a place to note trees that need staking. Zarinnia will check to see if that would be possible. The question was asked if the detention pond at Meadowsweet Park is

clay lined? Schoen reported that the mowing was becoming wider and interfering with plantings. He added that he felt that the plantings were done incorrectly. Coburn asked of the city plans to add wetland plants at new detention ponds. The Park Board approved Walton for digging ponds and dock. UFC will contact Park Board to see what is being planned. Coburn said that she appreciated the rain garden at Trippe Lake. Coburn asked about which quadrant will be planted next year and what is the replacement policy for trees that come down. Also, a citizen had asked about terrace and parking lot tree planting around the library. Neumeister responded that the library board made requests on library land, but terrace tree additions were decided by the city. Zarinnia wants us to remember that an arboretum could be the whole city instead of just one location.

Japanese Knotweed: Coburn passed out instructions for homeowners to recognize and remove Japanese Knotweed. The DNR wants it reported and removed. Glyphosate should not be used near the water where much of it grows. There are other herbicides that are appropriate for aquatic use.

Bird City/Bird Talk:

Chimney Swift tower fundraising has begun. Mailers went out today. There will be a UFC table at the next Farmer's Market for fundraising and general information. Coburn asked for a suggestion of a carpenter to build the first tower and anyone willing to help. Also, Coburn will ask the city to build the concrete base. The fundraising letter is on the Banner. The dedication is hopefully scheduled as part of the Downtown Celebration on September 12. A Swift Night Out was discussed, but an appropriate night was not decided on.

Hazards for birds: Coburn reported a good response from Janna Burhop and a couple veterinarians for placing an educational pamphlet at their establishments about cats being a danger to birds.

Plan Board report: Stanek had no report.

Coburn reported that she spoke with Chris Munz-Prichard, Neighborhood Service Director, about possibly removing the directive from the UFC handbook to have input on landscaping reviews coming to the Plan Board. Coburn felt that it should be removed if the timing was too difficult to implement. Munz-Prichard wanted it to remain and would try to bring the UFC into the process as an advisory group.

Park Board: Knedler not present.

Park Board member, Kori Oberle, said that the city was looking at a 5 to 10 yr. plan for the Effigy Mounds. Midwest Prairie is part one of the contract. It worked with the city crew to spot treat weeds. The front will be mowed the following week. Midwest Prairie is training city workers to take over much of the work. Park Board member, Ken Kidd, suggested planting with ginger as a ground cover. There is no money in the 2016 budget for plants. Monday, Aug 3, will be the second meeting of the Friends of the Mounds at the library, 6:00 to 7:30. Signage will be unveiled. Oberle will send the proposal to Coburn for the UFC to look at. The Friends group is hoping to work with community organizations, the University, and High School students who might fulfill their service requirements by helping maintain the Mounds. Coburn asked how the UFC might help. She asked for a tree inventory. The UFC might consider a program on birds that migrate through the mounds as well as those that reside there year round. Smith expressed concern about people digging up wild ginger to sell or use. There is no digging allowed in the Preserve.

Visit to Meadowsweet Park: Cancelled

Stone moved to adjourn. Smith seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Next meeting August 25, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Stanek, Secretary

Urban Forestry Minutes, August 25, 2015

Meeting called to order: 4:37 PM

Roll call: Present: Anne Zarinnia, Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch,
Jerry Schoen
Absent: Beverly Stone, Brandon Knedler, Teri Smith
Staff: Chuck Nass
Visitors: Marianne Scott, Kenneth Kienbaum

Approval of Agenda: Zarinnia moved to approve, McCulloch 2nd,
Unanimous approval.

Minutes from July 28, 2015 not voted on.

Staff report: Trees in SE quadrant will be up for planting. Visitor, Ken Kienbaum raised concern about the appropriate choice of trees for the downtown. He wondered about room for roots especially. Nass assured him that they were correctly chosen.

Park planning: Coburn opened discussion. Consideration of educational plantings at Clay Street Nature Park. She was grateful that the Black Walnut tree was saved. Asked that the board think of possibilities for native plantings to support birds. A butterfly garden might be considered. Marianne Scott would like to be informed about progress. Also, bringing nearby residents into the discussion was mentioned. Agreed by all.

Bird City/Bird Talk: We have \$1,100 in gifts toward the building of the tower. Nass and Coburn will meet to discuss the position of the tower at Cravath Lake Park. Coburn would like to put up an informational display of our Bird of the Year, the Chimney Swift, at the Artrageous Bird Show at the Whitewater Arts Alliance Show in September. McCulloch move to do so, Zarinnia 2nd, passed unanimously. Zarinnia and Coburn reported on the “near” Chimney Swift release in the downtown. Juvenile Swifts were brought in from the shelter in Waukesha to join the flock that uses a downtown chimney for roosting. It failed due to music being played loudly at the park obscuring the twittering of Swifts flying overhead. Not hearing that sound, the juveniles wouldn’t know where to go. Schoen and McCulloch agreed to get together after Sept. 12 to arrange putting up the

bluebird houses at the high school. Coburn and Stanek will man the UFC tables at the downtown celebration. They will offer bird centered art activities for children and informational brochures. Coburn reported that she had notified Mariette Nowak about restocking native seeds for our library.

Park Board report: Stanek was absent.

Parks and Recreation: Knedler was absent

Possible programs for future meetings: Coburn asked Nass for possible talk on native trees.

No park visit.

No adjournment process due to loss of quorum

Next meeting: September 22, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Karen McCulloch, Acting Secretary