



**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2015, 4:30 PM
Cravath Lakefront Room, 2nd floor City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190**

Agenda

***Amended Agenda as of 8:30 a.m. June 22, 2015 to add an agenda item for the election of officers.**

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:

***Election of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.**

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

Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2015 and May 26, 2015

Staff Report: City Forester: (Nass)

Planting update: tree pruning/maintenance

tree guards, Prairie St. (citizen concern)

downtown tree planting report

Bird City/Bird Talk: (information and comments)

**Community education and activity planning:
Hazards for birds (Coburn)
Bird City criteria progress report**

Website: calendar

Plan Board: (Stanek)

Parks and Recreation: (Knedler)

Effigy Mounds update:

Park visit: Skyway Park observation

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.

Field Trip to Minnieska Park: Purpose is to view and suggest possible development of plantings (trees and other vegetation) as requested by the Park and Recreation Board. Citizens are welcome.

Adjournment:

Next meeting: July 28, 2015

Before UFC was called to order, Maggie Zoellner, program manager for the Kettle Moraine Land Trust, spoke about her work, what it is, what they do, and issues/matters of land conservation efforts in the Kettle Moraine area. There has been focus on Natureland County Park to restore that parcel of land. Zoellner spoke on different types of agreements for easements with the understanding that each would have public benefit. She answered a variety of questions regarding the program and protection of land. A Mother's Day walk is planned at Rainbow Springs.

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Call to order at 5:07 P.M.

Roll Call:

Staff: Andy Beckman

Present: Karen Coburn Karen McCulloch, Anne Zarinnia, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Beverly Stone.

Absent: Sherry Stanek and Brandon Knedler

Citizens present: Kori Oberlie, Richard Helmick, Denay Trykowski

The agenda was approved with an adjustment for the change in order with the speaker presenting her talk before the meeting formally opened. Moved by Zarinnia, seconded by Gray-Fow. Motion was unanimously passed.

Staff report: Andy Beckman

The staff is finishing pruning the NW quadrant. They are removing 6 Ash trees in downtown Main St. and replacing them with large size young trees. There will be 8 enclosures for the entire downtown streetscape. Zarinnia asked about a rainwater channeling system and whether it would work to water downtown trees.

Zarinnia moved to approve the Agenda a 2nd time in order to remove the vote on recommended trees for the downtown under staff report. McCulloch seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

Coburn reported on placement of trees in Cravath Lake Park showing the map agreed upon by the Park and Rec Board subject to City Forester and Council approval. The plantings will wait until pier improvements are finished.

Park Tour Planning: Chuck would like to see more trees in Skyline Park. It is currently a playground. Chuck doesn't feel there are enough trees. Airfield restrictions need to be addressed regarding height and placement of trees.

Park tours were then discussed. Coburn suggested we vote on a specific park tour beginning in April. Zarinnia suggested we look at new development and what we can offer for children's playgrounds. Beckman suggested we begin with the area near the Teronomy development. Stone moved to begin review of all parks beginning in April. Gray-Fow seconded. Motion was unanimously passed

Bird City Bird Talk

Coburn passed around the new Chimney Swift brochure. . The committee is aiming for a Cravath Lake Park Swift Tower by the gazebo as 1st choice. Zarinnia suggested using bird droppings for fertilizer. She also suggested looking for 2 more sites for the Swifts. Zarinnia moved, McCulloch seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

Stone reported on the Whitewater Arts Alliance plans regarding the fall competition entitled, "Art Rageous, All About Birds". The judging will be in September. A "Swift Night Out" was discussed that would be held at some time in the fall.

Coburn reported on the seed library. She will be purchasing a refrigerator to help with cold wintering. A program will be given on Apr 16 at 6:30 at the library by Richard Ehrenberg with Teresa and Gerhard Stegman. They will give instructions as how to handle the seeds and save them through the winter.

Website Progress and Considerations: Zarinnia reported on new software for the UFC. It is the same software that Park and Rec uses. She gave members printouts of a tentative menu for the UFC website pages.

No Plan Board Report

No Park and Rec Report

Kori Oberlie reported that the tree inventory for the effigy mounds is in process. She stated that ancient and juvenile oaks need care. An inventory is a good place to begin as there are trees there that don't belong. Kori asked for a copy of the Effigy Mounds Preserve tree inventory.

Coburn stated that Chuck had one. The area was burned to control invasive plants, but for whatever reason, it was an incomplete burn.

Richard Helmick reported on the concept of the Arboretum for Starin Park. Coburn stated she was aware of the project and that we were going to be learning more.

Adjournment: Gray-Fow moved, Zarinnia seconded.
Unanimous approval was given.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McCulloch, Acting Secretary

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission
Tuesday, May 26, 2015 Meeting

Roll Call: Terry Smith, Bev Stone, Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Sherry Stanek
Absent: Brandon Knedler and Anne Zarinnia

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Guests: Richard Helmick and Kori Oberle

Call to order by Chair Coburn

Tabled approval of March minutes until June 15 meeting.

Approval of April 28, 2015 minutes: McCulloch so moved, Stanek seconded, all in favor.

Motion made by Stone to remove Website Report (due to Zarinnia's absence) from Agenda, Stanek 2nd - all in favor.

Staff Report: Neumeister reported that tree guards will go on in June. The rest of the trees will be planted downtown soon. Asplundh is removing 7 Ash trees in poor condition in the city. The Main Street tree planting and watershed planters are being prepared. The tree areas will be larger and square, replacing the round iron grated tree areas that are being removed. Larger trees will go into t/he watershed planters, smaller trees will have decorative tree guards that match the iron fencing around the watershed planters. Coburn asked about quadrant planting in the city. Neumeister stated that we are not doing that this year because we are working on diseased trees all over the city. Coburn said that there is a citizen on Clay St. that would like a couple of trees planted. Neumeister said that he would address this. Coburn asked if the UFC can have input into what trees are replanted, and said that we would prefer native species if possible. Neumeister said they are currently out for bid.

Starin Park Arboretum Proposal: A proposal has been submitted for consideration by resident Jim Nies (for The Historic Starin Park Neighborhood Association). Coburn said that they would like us to vote on this proposal. Stanek said she'd like to see them consider another park that is more in need of trees, rather than Starin Park which is very well treed. Oberle reported that the Park Board is looking for a report from then UFC to the Park Board. Stanek asked if they might be interested in labeling the trees that are currently growing at Starin Park. Oberle stated that she would like to see a plan that is further along, including long and short term goals, a proposed budget, and where funds might come from. McCulloch said that she loves the plan but she would like to see a better fleshed out plan. Oberle would like city staff to weigh in on this idea and thinks the UFC should definitely be involved in the development of this plan. She also said that there should be stakeholders throughout the community. Stanek made

a motion that we vote to support the concept of a community arboretum, but not necessarily this particular Starin Park plan at this time. Stone seconded; unanimously approved.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Coburn handed out Chimney Swift pamphlets for distribution to the community. She said that two possible sites for Swift Towers were being considered by the Tower Committee, both of them at Cravath Lake Park. The first suggestion was by the gazebo and the second was at Mill Pond Park. Coburn will be presenting this proposal to the Park Board on June 9th. Stone moved that we recommend the gazebo location for the first tower, McCulloch seconded, passed unanimously.

Coburn asked members to think about volunteering to chair the Swift Night Out project and Swift count which will happen in September. Stanek offered to help.

Coburn thinks that the UFC should have an alternate member along with volunteer opportunities. Council would need to approve an alternate position. McCulloch is in contact with a UW-W student who is involved in an exciting and successful UW-W outreach program. He will be going into environmental sciences and would like to get involved in ongoing projects in the city. McCulloch asked if Zarinnia can put on a place on the website for citizens to sign up on if they are interested in volunteering for various projects in order to develop a volunteer pool? Oberle said Landmarks Commission has a Facebook page with links to Effigy Mounds Preserve. Helmick said that he's not sure UFC can have it's own Facebook page. Members were asked to consider possibilities for future discussion.

Plan Commission Report: Stanek said that a new truck repair business, approved on Hwy. 59, plans to landscape around the building before they open. Site is in rough shape now.

Parks & Recreation Board Report: Knedler absent.

McCulloch reported that 14 Whitewater High School students met at Effigy Mounds along with Kori Oberle, Richard Helmick, Richard Ehrenberg, Denay Trykowski, and Karen Coburn. Students were interested and engaged. Denay gave a tour of her native flower garden planted near the Effigy Mound sign. They then met at Brewery Hill Park and worked hard to remove invasive plants. Stream sampling was done at Whitewater Creek at the Ray Trost Memorial Park. The idea was to check on the health of the creek. They filled ten large bags with Japanese Knotweed, a wide spreading invasive plant. Richard Ehrenberg, an expert on native plants, helped identify species. It was a beautiful day. Each WHS student needs 10 hours of community service or 15 if they are National Honor Society students. Oberle suggested that we set up a sub-committee to put together a joint proposal by the UFC, Effigy Mounds Committee and Landmarks Commission that could be submitted to the high school for student opportunities to fulfill their community service hours.

Oberle reported on the Effigy Mounds. Maintenance of grounds, not mounds, was discussed at the March Park Board meeting. There was discussion of hiring Midwest Prairies to do no till grass seeding' combined with herbicide to get rid of invasive plants. Ken Kidd voiced a need for

the Park Board to work with Midwest Prairies. We need to get rid of the garlic mustard that is abundant there. The Midwest Prairie contract is due in May. While here, they will do some consultation with city workers on what should be planted to distinguish the mounds. We need to let people know that it will take time to see results. Informational signage is on its way. There is money in the Park Board Budget for this. The former Friends of Effigy Mounds stopped meeting in March of 2013, and the new group is meeting at the library on June 1st, 2015 at 6:30 p.m in the public meeting room. The goal is to rejuvenate a group that could meet quarterly to educate the community about the ongoing work at the Mounds. They would also like to have an information table at the Farmer's Market and all members could take turns manning it. Oberle is going on a field trip to National Effigy Mound Park through the Park Service to do fact finding. She will share what she learns at the next meeting.

Coburn, Smith, McCulloch and Stanek toured Skyway Park. They felt that the park needed shade trees for the playground and bench area. The park will be visited again because it is large and needs more time to consider other plantings.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek