City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2014, 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 December 16, 2014

Staff Report: City Forester: (Nass)

Planting update: tree pruning/maintenance
Tree choices and plantings for spring (bird friendly)
Downtown trees: removal and planting schedule, tree choices,

Bird City/Bird Talk: (information and comments)

a. Migratory Bird Observation Day. (Chimney Swifts?)
b. Chimney Swift tower meeting (Coburn)
b. Community education and activities planning
(Scott Weberpal Presentation at library on February 17, seed library, Maggie Zoellner in March)
c. Other considerations

Website: Redo considerations

Board Reports:

Plan Board: (Stanek)

Parks and Recreation: (Knedler)
Trail walks: When?
Effigy Mounds update
Reports to Parks and Rec

Possible programs for future meetings:
Tree Talk: (Nass)

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.

Adjournment:

Next meeting: February 24, 2015

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City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Minutes
Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Meeting called to order by Karen Coburn, Chairperson

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Bev Stone, Sherry Stanek
Members Absent: Brandon Knedler
Staff: Andy Beckman
Guest: Anne Zarinnia

Approval of Agenda: McCulloch moved to approve; Stone seconded; unanimous approval

Approval of November Minutes: Gray-Fow moved to accept; McCulloch seconded; unanimous approval

Karen Coburn nominated Sherry Stanek for Secretary; Gray-Fow seconded; unanimous approval

Staff Report: Beckman reported that structural pruning, especially of small trees has begun. When asked about Senior Center tree planting, he explained that the Park and Rec Board is in charge of trees there. Coburn interjected that she understands that Park and Rec is in charge, but wants to remind them that Urban Forestry would like to be informed when these decisions/discussions are happening because part of our function is advisory about tree choice. She added that they would like consideration to be given to the attractiveness of chosen trees for bird life. Chuck Nass ultimately orders the trees and where they are planted.

Gray-Fow concurred that the UFC is supposed to be serving an advisory function to the Park and Rec Board and would like to be informed when these discussions are happening. Brandon Knedler is the Park Board representative to the UFC.

Coburn asked Beckman whether there is a budget for Bird City. He said no but that if there are expenses for speakers or supplies, we should talk to Chuck Nass. Coburn is concerned about our ability to offer a stipend for speakers if needed. Beckman agreed to talk to Nass about UFC budget.

Gray-Fow told Beckman that she would like a definitive list of the trees to be planted next year. He answered that he and Nass had talked about trying to get some new varieties into the mix in Whitewater, such as Ohio Buckeye and Gum trees as well as Buttercup Magnolia. Coburn mentioned that Buttercup Magnolia is a beautiful tree, but wouldn't serve well for canopy. Gray-Fow said that so far, UFC only has the list of possible downtown trees provided by Nass several months ago. She would like to receive the tree plan for the whole city. She also said that the city arborists and forester should have lists of easy and hard to maintain trees.

Coburn would like to see curbing that directs drainage to the tree roots placed around individual trees downtown that contain mulch, so that when it rains, the mulch doesn't get washed out and the rainwater replenishes the tree roots.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Coburn said that we need to hear from Nass regarding Bird City requirements. Stanek said that Nass had talked about planting bird friendly trees one year, doing a bird count the next

year followed by a tree planting the third year. She would like to know what trees are being considered to meet that requirement.

Coburn passed around a map showing where Chimney Swifts, our bird of the year for 2015, live in the USA . They are located mostly in the eastern USA. Beckman offered that this is probably influenced by large human populations and the number of old buildings in that part of the country**.** The UFC hopes to build at least one Swift Tower in 2015. This will involve community members and would count as an education requirement for Bird City as well. A Swift Tower Committee is forming. At this point membership includes Scott Weberpal, Liesel Schultz, Ginny Coburn, and Brienne Brown of Makers Space. Coburn showed us quite a few different designs for Swift Towers and mentioned that she liked one that encompassed a kiosk which would hold information about the tower and Chimney Swifts.

There will be a meeting of the Tower Committee at 10:00 a.m. on January 5th, 2015 in the City Manager's Conference Room. Coburn has contacted Linda Long of the WW Arts Alliance to see if they would be interested in this project as well. Linda said that she would like a bird photography exhibit as a possible future Whitewater project and will bring it up with the Arts Alliance.

Coburn also mentioned the possibility of a Swift Night Out to involve and educate the community about Chimney Swifts.

Stone announced that she will be giving a presentation to Bassett House members in April on Chimney Swifts and the tower project. She would also like to tell them more about Bird City and the requirements for maintaining our status as a Bird City. Coburn offered to meet with Bev prior to this April presentation to share information with her. The presentation will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Coburn reported that Scott Weberpal will speak at the end of February on the large variety of birds found in Whitewater. Scott will speak at the library and we will serve hot cider like we did last year when Mariette Nowak did her presentation. We would like to host a citizen bird count in the future, and are hoping that this presentation will spur interest and participation in one. She asked if members would still like to have a monthly meeting during the months when we have special presentation like this one. It was unanimous that we should still have our regular meeting. Coburn would like someone to contact the Janesville Audubon chapter to get information on how they did their bird count. McCulloch agreed to do this.

Website Report: Coburn will get information to McCulloch on the Swift Tower informational meeting so it can be posted on the website. She also asked if McCulloch could put the tower concepts on the website. Gray-Fow asked what was happening with the website after she noticed problems. McCulloch said that the city had had problems in general with the city site and that the UFC page appears to be fixed. Gray-Fow said that she would like to have the UFC Management Plan posted on the website along with private and public landscape guidelines so that the public has access to them. Beckman said he would let Chuck know about the problems on the website so that he can make sure that they are fixed.

Guest Zarinnia gave insights on website issues. McCulloch said that it has been difficult to have access made easier for the community. Beckman offered that Tim does most of the work on this but that he had been out sick all week. He said that the city garage had been having problems all week as well.

Plan Commission Report: Stanek stated that the Plan Commission meeting had been cancelled so there was no report. Coburn asked her to contact Jane Wegner to find out how to make Stanek the official Plan Board representative.

Park and Recreation Board: Brandon couldn't attend the meeting so there had no report. Coburn reported that she had attended the previous Park Board meeting to see what was being planned for Cravath Lakefront Park trees. She obtained a map of the park from Scott Weberpal showing the mature canopies of the trees currently at the park and also asked him to insert three trees that the UFC is recommending for shade at the park. She reported that the Park Board would like to remove the two Ash trees located on either side of the arch. Beckman said that this should not be necessary as the trees will be pruned as they grow and will not obscure the arch and should stay as they will beautifully frame the arch in time. The Park Board also noted that there are two oak trees that they should consider removing because they will get too big. UFC members discussed this and would like to remind the Park Board that it will take many, many years for these trees to mature. They are very slow growing trees and can be maintained and pruned as they grow if needed. The City Forrester has explained this to Park Board members at various times.

Gray-Fow gave a brief history of the UFC starting from when it was the Tree Commission. She said that this advisory commission was a hard won victory for the city.

Coburn said that she had written to both Councilman Ken Kidd and also Brandon Knedler to let them know our concerns regarding the need for more shade in Cravath Lakefront Park. She would like us to continue to pursue the addition of shade trees at Cravath Park so that the park can be enjoyed during the heat of the day. She also would like the UFC to be informed if any healthy trees are ever slated for removal. Ken Kidd response to Coburn's letter was that he would like to see an open space in the area in front of the stage, but would like to see more trees in the parking area for the cooling effect.

Beckman gave an update on Treyton's Field of Dreams tree planting. 39 trees will be planted in the spring.

McCulloch voiced her concern that we need to make sure that healthy native tree species not be removed in order to plant something else. She said the H.S. personnel refers to them as "weed trees" even though they are healthy native trees. She would like to approach and discuss this with the person in charge of the citizen scientist project.

Guest Anne Zarinnia talked about the Effigy Mounds regarding Frank Sekel who did infrared mapping of the mounds in the 1970's and thinks there may be a bird mound in the area. Maggie Zellner has talked about this. Park Board has been discussing the maintenance and repair of this area. Coburn said that she had just seen an article on Stonehenge and city ruins found there through these new methods. Zarinnia asked whether there was a plan for the Oak Savannah and Coburn told her to contact Jane Wegner to get a copy. Zarinnia will see if she can find the article from the 70's. Members asked her if she was interested in becoming a member of the UFC and encouraged her to apply.

Coburn would like to schedule Chuck Nass for a "Tree Talk" soon. Beckman said he would tell Chuck and that we can hopefully get this on his schedule.

McCulloch moved to adjourn; Bev seconded; unanimous approval

Next Meeting: January 27, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary