

Urban Forestry Commission Meeting  
Monday, November 27, 2017, 4:30 PM  
Cravath Lakefront Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 September 25, 2017

Treasurer's Report: (Knedler)  
Budget

Staff Report: City Forester: (Nass)  
Planting update:  
Construction update

Bird City/Bird Talk: (information and comments)  
Washington Elementary School activities (report)  
Bird Count  
Seed Library

Tree City/Tree Talk  
Walton Oaks Park (Elizabeth Hoffman report )  
(volunteer planning/Nick Alt)  
Year of the Oak  
Other tree considerations

Plan Board: (Stanek)

Parks and Recreation: (Knedler)

Announcements:

Suggested topics for future meetings

Adjournment

Next meeting: January 22, 2018

**City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission  
September 25, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** 4:35 p.m. by Chair Coburn

**Roll Call:** Anne Zarinnia, Jerry Schoen, Rose Mary Leaver, Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler, Nick Alt **Staff:** Chuck Nass **Guest:** Kori Oberle

**Approval of Agenda:** Leaver moved approval, Alt 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Leaver moved approval, Zarinnia 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Coburn submitted a budget request to the council for consideration for 2018; Alt turned in \$8 from honey sales.

**Staff Report:** There are three trees left to be planted this fall at Starin Park circle in front of Senior Center. Leaver asked if newly planted trees should be straightened if they are leaning. They may be straightened. City planted 200 trees in 2017. Two staff (seasonal) keep them watered weekly during dry periods for the first year.

**Bird City/Bird Talk:** McCulloch is talking to schools about an activity where the kids will take bird nests apart to see what they're made of. Ginny Coburn had this activity at the Main Street Festival and it was popular. Stanek asked if the city has a new Bird City flag as the one that is currently flying is tattered, Nass said that we don't and that it has to be purchased. Leaver moved that we order a new Bird City flag, Zarinnia 2nd, unanimously approved. Stanek still needs to update Bird City signs to new format with date being since \_\_\_\_\_ instead of having to update the year each year. Will get this done this fall.

**Tree City/Tree Talk:** Should there be a Walton Oaks restoration talk with the Effigy Mounds Group? Guest Kori Oberle told us about her upcoming talk scheduled for 1 p.m., September 26th at Fairhaven, this program will talk about Whitewater Treasures including the Territorial Oak at the corner of Main and Franklin Streets. This tree is featured on page 60 of "Every Root and Anchor"

where it outlines the beginning point of the surveying of Whitewater. Coburn and Nass talked about doing an acorn project with the kids at Washington School. Nass has long wanted to have kids raise trees from the acorns of the Territorial Oak Tree so that we can continue to have trees in the city that continue the lineage of this important tree. The tree won't last forever and is showing signs of decline. Oberle will gather acorns from this tree. Coburn asked Nass about the effect of continuing to have vehicles parked weekly under the maple trees at the Historic Depot for City Markets on Tuesdays. Nass will take a look during the next market. McCulloch pointed out that she attends many markets like this and that normally, vendors pull up and unload their vehicles and then park them elsewhere, not on the lawn or under trees. Alt said that he had spoken with Paul Majors about the possibility of the high school establishing a School Forest. Where would this be located? It would definitely not be a simple project. Is there land that the DNR owns that could be donated for this purpose? Does the school district have land that could be used for this purpose? More discussion to follow at future meetings. Stanek stated that anybody who would like to weed the beds in the Clay Street Nature Park may do so whenever they see a need. Stanek also said that the Downtown Arboretum sign project will be completed this winter so that signs can be installed at the Main Street tree surrounds next spring, 2018. We need to decide how much information we would like about each tree. Just botanical and common name? Or more information about each tree? Stanek and Nass will work together on this. UFC Standards: Coburn passed out copies of the City Of Whitewater Landscape Guidelines and Suggested Practices. Some things need to be updated but overall it's fine. UFC still needs to continue to work with Chris Munz-Pritchard on easier point system sheets for landscaping at city developments.

**Downtown Main Street Festival:** The festival was very well attended and Alt's Bird Migration bean bag game was a big hit. Lots of people won bottles of honey and other prizes left from our International Migratory Day Bird Fair in August.

**PLan Board:** No report.

**Park & Recreation Board:** Discussion was held about city staff's work on removing buckthorn patches at Walton Oaks, and how much faster this is going than individually removing trees. Zarinnia moved that this work continue by city staff this fall, Knedler 2nd, unanimously approved. Knedler will talk to Eric

Boettcher, Whitewater's new Park & Rec. Director to line up the next park visits. The main concerns of Park & Rec. board lately have been regarding Aquatic Center issues.

**Announcements:** Kori Oberle presentation on Whitewater Treasures at Fairhaven at 1 p.m., September 26, 2017.

**Suggested topics for future meetings:** Zarinnia will talk about the importance of oaks in our ecosystem; Alt will talk about a possible School Forest project, and will contact Prairie Bob.

**Move to adjourn:** Motion to adjourn made by Zarinnia, Leaver 2nd, unanimously approved.

**Next Meeting:** October 23rd, 2017 in City Manager's 2nd floor conference room at City Hall.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Sherry Stanek, Secretary