

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2013**

Call to order by Chairperson, Tiiu Gray-Fow.

Roll call:

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Jay Craggs, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone

City staff present: Chuck Nass, Matt Amundson

Citizens present: Richard Helmick, Teri Smith, Dean Scharine, Bruce Parker, Richard Ehrenberg, Roy Nosek

Approval of Agenda:

Gray-Fow suggested the agenda be flexible to allow the Downtown Whitewater Committee agenda item to be considered as soon as their chair Dave Saalsaa arrives thereby moving it from the end of the meeting.

Motion by Bev Stone to approve the Agenda with Gray-Fow's suggested conditional modification. Second Karen McCulloch.

Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2012 meeting:

Motion by Brandon Knedler. Second by Karen Coburn.

Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2012 meeting:

Motion by Brandon Knedler. Second by Andrew Crone

Unanimous approval

Emerald Ash Bore:

Karen McCulloch had compiled exhaustive information from many sources on the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, methods of determining infestation, implications for the city's urban forest, and treatment options for private homeowners. She presented that information as a basis for educational programming to create awareness of the matter among Whitewater's citizens.

The UFC members discussed the information and possible steps to disseminate it.

Among the items discussed, Crone suggested the information should include a clause that states that the city does not endorse soil applied products because of potential toxicity concerns. Included in the content was reference to a manufacturer's application directions that recommended avoiding the use of the product within 25 feet of a body of water. The UFC members did not want citizens

to assume the UFC unequivocally accepted the views of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that manufacturer's application recommendations will meet the desired standards of the city.

Gray-Fow suggested the city obtain the costs for various EAB treatment applications from Winchester Hardware and list those as well.

Gray-Fow also suggested we include information about the March event at Cravath Lake which will include representatives from various application vendors.

The UFC discussed the ability to link to this information directly from the city's home page website rather than needing to follow several links to get to the information.

Citizen Roy Nosek stated that he thought the city's use of orange button tags are not adequate to inform the public about the number and location of Ash trees in the city.

Amundson pointed out that the UW extension has an online list of all the EAB treatment options and a description of the different treatment applications. Gray-Fow remarked that McCulloch had checked that site, but found other resources better.

Gray-Fow stated that the next step is for the City Forester, Chuck Nass, to ask Alan Lockett to put the above discussed material into a web page format. The group suggested the planned EAB web page should have links to suggested online videos, including the video from the October, 2012 EAB Educational Forum at UW-W that he taped. In addition, it was hoped, that the proposed March EAB Treatment Options public forum at the Cravath Lake building can be televised on the local cable station.

Gray-Fow made a motion to recommend the report be approved by the UFC along with the inclusion of the following: the non-endorsement of ground application statement, information about pricing from Winchester hardware, request to link the information directly from the city's web site, and the advertising and publication of the upcoming vendor forum at the Cravath Lakefront building. Crone seconded the motion.

Unanimous approval.

Downtown Whitewater:

Members of Downtown Whitewater were present to discuss landscaping concerns with the UFC. The first concern presented was that two trees recently planted in Cravath Lake Park present potential restrictions to the park's use as a "large events" grounds: especially to Pork in the Park. Gray-Fow brought up that the UFC discussed the placement of the trees with the owner of last year's 4th of July Carnival. The carnival owner specified where trees could be planted without restricting the setting up and use of the carnival rides. McCulloch explained how the

lack of shade in the open spaces in the park deters citizens from spending more time at summer festivals in that location. The UFC and the members of Downtown Whitewater who were present agreed that local business owners, and other stakeholders, should be included in future landscaping plans for that space. Crone agreed to help Saalsaa design a site plan for Pigs in the Park that includes placement for trees in a way where those trees do not restrict the use of the space for the Pigs in the Park and the 4th of July Carnival.

Another topic presented was that Downtown Whitewater is in the process of creating a long-term plan for improvements to the downtown area that includes replacing trees. Issues of concern were tree types and locations. Saalsaa pointed out that Downtown Whitewater is focusing its efforts on improvements that are not too expensive and can be implemented within five years. The UFC and Downtown Whitewater agreed to work together going forward on these plans and they will schedule another meeting at a future date.

Treyton Field of Dreams

Amundson asked the committee to make comments on landscaping for Treyton Field of Dreams. Suggestions given were to plant deep rooted native plants in the retention ponds, consider the use of tree wells in paved areas, look into the costs of using pervious pavement in the parking lot.

Motion by Stone to approve the layout design for the field and parking lot conditioned on the verbal assurance from Amundson that the city will consult the UFC at a later date about specific landscaping details. Second by Gray-Fow. Unanimous approval.

Secretary Andrew Crone had to leave.

Minutes continued by Karen McCulloch as Secretary pro-tem.

Item 6.

According to the City Forester, nothing is really happening with regard to landscape plan feedback issue.

Item 7.

Changing meeting time. McCulloch moved to change meeting time to 4:30. Stone seconded. Short discussion followed. Passed unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Forester Nass is looking to starting the removal of ash under 4". These ash will all be replaced in the spring. Trimming has begun.

Citizen Comments:

Richard Ehrenberg spoke about certain trees (Ivory Silk Lilac and the Cleveland Pear, among several more) that should be removed from the tree order list since they do not thrive very well.

Gray-Fow responded to Ehrenberg by stating that all of the trees on order were taken from the list of recommended trees for planting, provided by Ehrenberg and Nosek. In addition, some of the trees that were added during the December, 2012 meeting at Ehrenberg's and Nosek's suggestion were included as well in the final order.

According to the City Forester, the tree order list has already been submitted, and therefore cannot be amended. Nass also agreed that the tree order was placed with the recommendations that came directly from the list provided by Ehrenberg and Nosek.

Gray-Fow suggested that the tree species that concern Mr. Ehrenberg should be monitored carefully this summer for problems. If there are any issues they won't be ordered for the Spring 2014 planting. Either way, Ehrenberg's list should be looked at again prior to finalizing any future order.

Gray-Fow moved to adjourn. Craggs seconded. Passes unanimously.

Karen McCulloch
Secretary Pro-tem