

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 25, 2013**

Call to order by City Forester Chuck Nass.

Roll call:

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone, Tom Miller

Introduction of new member:

Election:

Crone nominates Gray-Fow as chairperson. Second by Coburn.
Unanimous approval.

Gray-Fow nominates Crone for Secretary. Seconded by Coburn.
Gray-Fow, Coburn, Knedler, Stone and Miller in favor.
Crone, opposed.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Stone to approve the agenda. Seconded by Knedler.
Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2013 meeting:

Motion to approve minutes by Stone. Seconded by Knedler.
Unanimous approval

Cravath lakefront stakeholders meeting:

Last meeting was cancelled because of public notification problems.
We are now looking at a fall meeting.

McCulloch arrives at this point in the meeting.

Gray-Fow suggests we try to identify several different options for use of Cravath Lake Park.

Arbor day award:

Whitewater was awarded "Tree City Growth Award" and "Arbor Day Award" and given "Platinum Award" from state with regards to the growth award. The state's city forestry magazine mentioned our tree guards (which were designed by Dr. Roy Nosek, and built by the Whitewater Streets Department).

Nass will see if we can put some information on the web site. We are one of 11 cities in the state with 10 growth awards.

Design Committee Streetscape Plan:

The Downtown Whitewater design committee applied for a grant to create a report on an ideal plan for the downtown. The city was not notified. Nass will ask if he can get to one of their meetings, or better yet, have regular UFC representation there.

Bird City:

Regarding the hunting and other criteria, one of the items in criteria is that existing bird habitat must be protected, but it can be overwritten by other criteria. We only need three of the ten criteria to get the award. Knedler says he thought we can't currently hunt geese within city limits, but the city may become open for bow hunting. Gray-Fow said there has been past hunting by permit, but she was wondering if it had been discontinued. Nass stated that the GIS technician, Scott Weberpahl, conducted a bird survey for Whitewater and we have a list of bird species in town. Nass will do application paperwork for Bird City for next meeting.

McCulloch stated that people who complain about Turkeys often put out bird feed. Crone asked whether people in Whitewater want turkeys around. He thought it was possible that the majority of citizens might actually like having wild turkeys in their yard. Gray-Fow said she found them to be really elegant looking birds, unlike Thanksgiving turkeys.

Planning Board:

No report this month.

Park and Recreation Board:

No report this month.

Staff report:

East Main Street trees will be coming down, the majority are ash, because of street widening, but they will be replanted (between Washington School and Harris Street only, other trees are not affected)

Milwaukee Street has been replanted. Only one person did not want trees. 356 trees have been planted city-wide. In addition, 110 trees were planted as replacements for the ash trees that were removed.

The city is three quarters of the way through with their injection of trees that they are saving (the trees with the green marks). Nass will hopefully do a fall planting and do East Main if construction there is completed in the fall. Three trees will be removed downtown because they are dead or top is dead. They will be replaced.

Nass will give us a list of declining trees. Milwaukee Street has been planted. Some street trees that are old will be in decline soon such as those on Highland Street.

People call Nass all the time to update the forester about tree problems that need attention. There is a fine of \$200 / inch for breaking a tree he stated.

Citizen comments:

Stone commented as a citizen: Regarding lake treatment. She is upset that it was treated first then posted. She says it should be posted first. She doesn't like using chemicals in the lake. People and kids were in boats recently. She suggested we should use harvesters to control weeds. She said neither the park director nor a DNR representative was there during treatment.

Move to adjourn:

Motion by Miller. Second by Coburn.
Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:
Andrew Crone