

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, November 26, 2013**

Call to order by Gray-Fow

Roll call:

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone. Not present: Tom Miller

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Considerations:

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Coburn to approve the agenda. Second by McCulloch.
Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes of October 22, 2013 meeting:

Motion by Stone to approve the agenda. Second by Coburn
Unanimous approval

Downtown Design Steering Committee meeting Report

Coburn said the meeting was congenial. A student is doing his thesis on downtown design. Will meet again in March. Coburn will ask student for more trees. Tourism and Chamber were present. Crone mentioned the community interest in the collective downtown beyond the interest in individual business landscaping outside the downtown businesses. Knedler mentioned making it one way to allow for more design options. He said the city should look to change the dynamics of downtown and make the whole downtown the destination not just a particular store. Gray-Fow said the changes brought by the Highway 12 bypass and the extension of Starin Road to Highway 59 (Newcomb St.) hurt downtown businesses by taking UW-W generated traffic around the business section, so we need a drastic change.

Summary of Wild Things Presentation on landscaping

Porous pavement pavers are being used to reduce run off and they expand and contract with the weather. Milwaukee uses harvesting tanks to catch rainwater to water their downtown plants. Floating Islands in river that attract little fish. There is so much going on that we need to look at as alternative ideas to help us become a destination.

Action Items:

Budget update

Neumeister said there are no real changes from last year.

Tree Orders

McKay's nursery had all that we need. Other nurseries did not have sufficient stock. Order will be done by first of the year.

Bird City

There will be a meeting December 12 with Karen McCulloch, Chuck Nass and Charles Schwartz (Wisconsin Bird City) to work through the application process. We might need to have published proof of our programs to finish the process.

Board Reports:**Planning board:**

No report this month.

Park and Rec Board:

No report this month.

Staff report:

There is no information yet on trees for the East Gate project.

Citizen comments:

None.

Upcoming Agenda items:

Next meeting will be 4:30 January 28, 2014 at the Library.

Mariette Nowak will be speaking on Birdscapes of the Midwest with emphasis on Native trees.

Move to adjourn:

Motion by McCulloch to adjourn. Second by Knedler.

Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Crone

Secretary, Urban Forestry Commission