

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission
Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Meeting Called to Order by Karen Coburn, Chair

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Brandon Knedler
Absent: Bev Stone and Sherry Stanek
Staff: Brian Neumeister

Approval of Agenda: Gray-Fow moved to approve, Knedler seconded; unanimous approval.

Approval of Special Meeting Minutes and Approval of Minutes of September 23, 2014; Knedler moved to approve, Gray-Fow seconded; unanimous approval.

Staff Report: Brian talked about "training pruning" little trees, tree planting this year involved planting 100 new trees, replacing damaged and dying trees. No quadrant planting.

Coburn asked about trees at Senior Center, to provide shade, especially for benches. Gray-Fow reminded Brian about approval of trees near Treyton Kilar Field of Dreams to replace cut trees at a 3 - 1 ratio (cut 1, replace with 3).

Bird City Budget: Coburn spoke on allowing a stipend for speakers, printing and other costs. Chimney Swift Tower cost was brought up.

Coburn asked about downtown trees without curbs and without drain, what material will be used as mulch/ground cover. Wintergreen was mentioned.

Bird City: Bird of The Year: Coburn asked for a vote on bird of the year. McCulloch moved to adopt Chimney Swift as Bird of The Year for 2015, Knedler seconded.

Coburn passed her tablet with photos of library display windows; spoke on creating with Nick Bursh. Our Bird City window will be left up at library for the month of December as well.

Discussion ensued re: towers and a design contest, fundraiser. Committee is being formed but there is room for more. Brought up community of Stevens Point, WI, and their towers. Audobon donated \$4,000 to construct. Coburn invited Whitewater community groups, schools and individuals to participate. McCulloch moved to approve moving forward with construction, Gray-Fow seconded; approved unanimously.

McCulloch reported on High School Biology teacher Petra Van deZarde and working together on placement of bluebird boxes. Paul Majors, Agriculture teacher was asked to be brought in on the project.

Gray-Fow reported on Audobon report regarding global climate change and bird conservation status/priority status/species. Also spoke on biodiversity from an article from The Guardian regarding native plants vs. diversity of plants.

Board Reports:

Plan Commission - Coburn resigned from Plan Commission so there is no report.

Park Board - Coburn asked Knedler for work session with Park Board for discussing trees in Cravath Lake Park. Knedler said that they would not be making any decision because they were waiting for a tree canopy dimension map from Scott Weberpal.

McCulloch moved to adjourn, Knedler seconded; approved unanimously.

Next Meeting: December 16, 2014 in City Manager's conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek(via Karen McCulloch)