

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

Call to order by Gray-Fow

Roll call:

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

Staff: Chuck Nass

Considerations:

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2014 meeting

Motion by Knedler to approve the minutes , Miller Second
Unanimous approval

Downtown Design Steering Committee meeting Report

Gray-Fow: Nothing new

Bird City

(Waited for McCulloch to arrive to present Bird City update. Bird City was discussed immediately after the Planning Board agenda item).

McCulloch stated we missed March 1 Deadline. Next date is July 1,2014. We still need a copy of the Bird City resolution (or a copy of the minutes) that was passed by the Common Council on March 4, 2014, and brochures for cats and dogs.

We also need an easily accessible direct link from the Whitewater city website to a designated Bird City page on the Urban Forestry Commission website.

McCulloch will ask Cameron Clapper about better links to these pages.

She volunteered to design the layout for the Bird City page. Karen Coburn said she would be happy to contribute input.

There was some discussion of a Facebook page as well.

The possibility of asking Jim Stewart at the Banner to include the Bird City link on his site on the left side was brought up. He will be approached once the page is done.

Board Reports:

Planning Board:

Coburn: Duplex on Florence mentioned honeysuckle bush in planting. They said they would plant something else. The Prince Street DLK plan had good plantings according to Nass. (McCulloch arrives at this time)

Park and Rec Board:

Knedler stated that they have four trail segments to review at the next meeting and then they will have something actionable for the UFC to review perhaps at the April or May meeting. Now they are determining the Park and Rec recommendations for the strategic plan for each park. These will be sent to the UFC for its input. We will have more than one meeting, perhaps three parks per meeting. Gray-Fow stated that there is apparently a DNR deadline for the long-range strategic plans that will be sent in to the state shortly.

Knedler replied that this will be a several year project to review all parks. He did not know if sending in a strategic parks plan to the DNR would tie our hands to making future changes.

Crone asked whether the directive to make more of the city parks more natural can come from the Park Board rather than the natural plans being added on a park-by-park basis from UFC.

Gray-Fow would like a draft of the comprehensive plan before it is sent to the DNR. She asked that Knedler, as the Parks and Rec Board representative to the UFC, relay that request to the Board and to Matt Amundson.

Action Items:

1. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Flyer distribution and publicity; website issues

Flyer is complete. We will do website and put link on the city page and on Banner. We can also post the flyer at stores and the library and other locations. We can pick up copies at the city offices for distribution.

2. Bird City – further actions needed?

Discussed earlier

3. UFC recommendations for parks.

Done

4. Cravath Lake Park Stakeholders' meeting (April, May?)

No specific parks are on any Park Board agenda yet.

There was a discussion regarding the advisability of waiting for the Downtown Design Committee report prior to scheduling such a meeting.

Knedler will bring to the Park Board.

5. Update on UFC participation the Downtown Festival on August 2, 2014 with Studio 84, as an Environmental Education endeavor related to Bird City (Coburn)

Coburn: Members of the Festival committee want to have a table with information on bird friendly plantings and others items. We will need to purchase Bird pamphlets.

Knedler will ask Matt Admundson if there are any educational funds to make this information available.

They will pick three species to present and different kinds of birdhouses for each type of bird. A contest for best birdhouse design will be held. Makerspace will make the houses and Studio 84 will make decorating materials available.

Maggie Zoeliner has mapped Whitewater's green areas and is willing to come and talk.

There will be Parade with large birds for the festival. Nass will look into getting wood for birdhouses. Nowak can be present to sign books.

6. Tour of Parks (April, May, June?) Coburn will look into a speaker for May meeting, otherwise we will do Tour of Parks in June, July or August.

Staff Reports:

Middle quadrant will be getting trimmed.

Arbor Day is set for Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 11:00am.

Program will include commemorative tree planting at the Irving Young Library in honor of Fred Kraege, Whitewater historian.

It will be Whitewater's 20th Anniversary of being a Tree City USA.

Citizen comments:

None.

Upcoming Agenda items:

Next meeting will be at 4:30pm, April 22, 2014.

Move to adjourn:

Motion by Miller to adjourn. Second by Knedler.

Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Crone