

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission
Tuesday February 24, 2015

Meeting called to order by Karen Coburn, Chair

Roll Call: Tiiu Grey-Fow, Anne Zarinnia, Brandon Knedler, Beverly Stone, Sherry Stanek, Karen Coburn Absent: Karen McCulloch

Guests: Ken Kienbaum, Bruce Parker, Richard Helmick, Corey Oberle and Alan Luckett

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Approval of Agenda: Zarinnia moved to approve, Stone seconded; unanimous

Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2015: Zarinnia moved to approve, Stanek seconded; unanimous

Staff Report: Brian Neumeister reported that most small trees in the city have been pruned with the exception of those in the northwest corner of town which will be completed soon.

An agreement with the Downtown Committee has been reached with regard to the watershed planters that will be placed on Main St. Each will have a different kind of tree and will have an identifying, informational plaque near their planting.

City staff is about to begin removal of diseased Ash trees on Main St., with the remaining to be removed as time permits this year, or next winter.

Coburn asked if some of the trees to be planted on Main St. will be canopy trees.

Grey-Fow requested that the UFC Management Plan be placed on our website so that residents can refer to it for proper planting of trees, and proper watering after planting until they are established.

There was much discussion about the plans for the trees and watershed planters on Main St. by UFC members, staff and guests. Parker answered measurement question regarding the planters stating that they are 2' from the curb, 6' across, and 7' to the building it will sit in front of for 15' overall. Helmick said planters should be narrower to allow for pedestrian traffic and street sales, etc. There was discussion of making the planters the same depth as the benches that will be placed at each end. Coburn expressed the UFC's desire to make sure mulch used would be natural material and was told it will be wood chips. Stanek reminded members that part of the purpose of the watershed planters is to help with drainage downtown and that we should keep that in mind when deciding to resize the planters. Parker expressed concern that

some of the trees selected will have expansive root systems that may create problems not only with the sidewalks but potentially with building foundations in the future. Neumeister replied that trees will be carefully pruned as they grow to be balanced in shape and that the trees will not reach their stated possible heights and widths due to restricted growing conditions and resources available to them on Main St. where they will be planted. Main St. building drain into areas behind them. He also said that there is a tentative planting schedule as weather permits, and that all planters will probably not be completed in 2015. Requests were made for smaller trees to select from, Neumeister said there are more option from what the city has ordered for this year and will get specs for those to Coburn before the next meeting. Grey-Fow said that consideration should be given to bird friendly trees and native species. Zarinnia will check to see what UWW is planting as their street trees and bring back a report in March. Coburn suggested we table this until the March meeting when we will have additional information.

Cravath Lakefront Park Report: Coburn reported that UFC needs to recommend a plan to the Park Board in March regarding the trees being removed and replanted and those to be planted for the first time. Neumeister brought a new map showing the existing trees, those to be removed and replanted as well as those to be planted. There was much discussion about the various possibilities and recommendations. Two oak trees are identified on the map that will be removed at the request of the Park Board from the interior portion of the park and moved closer to the perimeter of the park. A new maple tree will be planted near the two clusters of crab/maple trees with benches on the Ann St. edge of the park and a failing crab tree will be removed. After the new map was explained and after the discussion, Coburn requested a vote on what UFC members want to see done. Stanek made a motion that it be made part of the record that the UFC recommends trees be planted to create shade in the quadrant by the boat launch/pier area once the project to upgrade these is complete, preferably in the fall of 2015. It was further moved that the tree that was previously removed after being damaged by a car running into it be replaced with a new tree and that the commission supports Chuck Nass' proposal for planting at Cravath as designated on the map presented to the UFC by Neumeister on 2/24/15. Knedler seconded; Unanimous approval.

Bird Talk/Bird City: Coburn reported that the Chimney Swift Tower Committee will be meeting on March 9 at 10 a.m. at City Hall to work on developing a brochure to fund the building of Swift Towers.

-Linda Long will be doing a photography presentation in fall which will help to fulfill criteria for remaining a Bird City.

-Rich Ehrenberg and Mariette Nowak are doing great work in developing a Seed Library and will be presenting this at Irvin L. Young Library in April.

-Coburn reported for McCulloch that invasive species removal at the Indian Mounds Preserve will be aided in the future by school kids working under the supervision of the City Forester and high school teacher Petra Van deZarde. They will also be involved in placing bluebird houses and robin perches on school property. Mr. Majors from WHS and Jerry Shoen will be

helping to install and to maintain these installations and to monitor them during the nesting season.

-The presentation by Scott Weberpal at the library on February 18 was very well attended by 52. Hot cider was served and all were impressed by Scott's wonderful photography and breadth of knowledge about the birds that live in and migrate through Whitewater.

-Coburn and Stanek will be interviewed by Charles 'Skip' Grover for the Park Bench program on Thursday, February 26 to inform residents about what Bird City is all about.

Website Report: Zarinnia reported that she has been working with Alan Lockett on the website. There will be a link on the Bird City page for the 2/28 presentation by Scott Weberpal. She stated that we can add links to anything as long as we properly credit the link on our page. Grey-Fow and Coburn would like Bird City and Tree City links.

-Alan Lockett says that if we would like changes we can suggest them to him by highlighting what we'd like and then cutting and pasting it into a Word document and sending it to him. Zarinnia requested more information on the Rec Desk page under Forestry in order to redirect people to the city's UFC site. She stated that she will work to get UFC Management Plan onto website. Grey-Fow and Stanek will get a copy to her.

Plan Commission Report: None

Park and Recreation Board Report: None

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Maggie Zoellner of the Kettle Moraine Land Trust will be giving a half hour presentation at March's UFC meeting and Richard Ehrenberg and Mariette Nowak will be doing the Seed Library presentation in April.

Guests briefly addressed the UFC:

Guest Kienbaum introduced himself and informed us that he is running for city council and will therefore be attending most city meetings to inform himself as well as to become known in the community.

Guest Oberle introduced herself and stated that she is a new member of the Park Board. She wants to be the best she can be as a representative of this board and will therefore be coming to most future UFC meetings and stated that she values the work that the UFC is doing. She stated that she would like to reactivate the "Friends of The Mounds" group in Whitewater and then hopefully work to implement/steer the 2011-2012 Management Plan for the Mounds. Zarinnia recommended that she read the report on the Mounds by Frank D. Stekel; It was stated the the Landmarks Commission is in charge of the Mounds and that funding for the Mounds is managed by the Park Board. Oberle pledged to partner with the UFC to continue to work to preserve and protect the Indian Mounds Preserve. Coburn suggested that we go

over the Mounds Management Plan with Oberle and thanked and welcomed her. It was suggested that we develop a Facebook page for the Mounds to help make people aware of this treasure and to get them interested in supporting ongoing efforts to preserve and protect it. Oberla stated that she will send notices to UFC members when the Park Board plans to discuss items pertinent to UFC. Park Board will be meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Grey-Fow moved to adjourn meeting, Stanek seconded.

Next Meeting: March 24, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in Cravath Room at City Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek