

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission
Tuesday April 28, 2015

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Anne Zarinnia, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone, Sherry Stanek

Staff: Chuck Nass

Guests: Ken Kienbaum and City Manager Cameron Clapper

Call to order by Chair Coburn

March meeting minutes will be reviewed at May meeting.

Staff Report: Chuck Nass requested (for Park Board) that minutes from January 2015 meeting be corrected to say that Chuck decides what trees will be planted with UFC and makes a recommendation to the Park Board which then okays those choices. Knedler moved that we correct January minutes with appropriate language, McCulloch seconded, unanimously passed.

Pruning is done all over the city. Trees are coming in from Johnson, McKay Nursery and Baileys. So far the balled and burlapped are in; some bare root are expected soon. B & B to be put on Main St. to replace Ash trees that had to be removed because of Emerald Ash Borer infestation. The larger trees will be planted in the larger watershed planters; smaller ones will be planted outside of those. Each tree will be of a different variety with descriptions on poles like previous spring's art projects, for a "Walking Arboretum."

McCulloch asked about Prairie St. trees. Chuck answered that junk trees will be removed; all trees will have tree guards when finished. Coburn asked when trees will be planted at Cravath Lake Park in the area of the pier replacement project. Chuck answered that they will not be planted until pier project is complete, possible not until spring of 2016. Other trees will be planted at Cravath this spring.

Ken Kienbaum stated that he is concerned about the trees on Hyer Lane. Chuck said that he will check on them.

Park Tour Planning: Discussion was held regarding Starin Park Arboretum proposal submitted by Starin Park Neighborhood. This neighborhood would like to see an arboretum developed at Starin Park as proposed by community member Jim Nies. Knedler suggested that we consider starting a project like this at the Ray Trost Preserve rather than at Starin Park since Starin Park is so full. This is a very preliminary look at this proposal. It will come back to future meetings for further consideration and discussion. UFC would serve in an advisory capacity. Gray-Fow suggested that someone from UFC attend the neighborhood's meetings and then report back to

UFC or that one of their members could come to our meetings to give a report so that we stay informed as this discussion continues.

Detention Pond at Clay Street Nature Park: Box Elder and Black Walnut trees will be removed (5 trees) as well as black raspberries that are there now. It was mentioned that somebody could take the black raspberry bushes if they would like to save them. Discussion was held regarding proposal from Richard Ehrenberg. Chuck explained that the DNR is driving this train and that specific objectives must be met in order for this pond to do what it is designed to do. The purpose is to filter water before it goes into the lake in order to increase the health of the lake and must be meet their guidelines. Mr. Ehrenberg's plan does not meet these requirements. Discussion of Bloomingfield detention pond's original design to be a dry pond and that it will now become a wet pond in order to meet particular numbers for water/drainage. The Clay St. pond will be full of water most of the time. Chuck explained that trees can be replanted there in the future. Knedler asked if existing storm sewer is dictating where the pond will be located, specifically near the lake as opposed to higher up in the park. Chuck explained that the storm sewer is existing and will be connected to the detention pond as engineered by the DNR. Coburn expressed her concern that the view will be lost. This park has the fullest view of Tripp Lake and she had hoped that more of the space near the water could have been preserved for citizens to use to enjoy this park. Chuck Nass suggested that she share her concerns at the next Park Board meeting. He explained that this design is what it is in order to get cleaner water into the lake. Coburn stated that she will go the May 12th Park Board meeting.

City Manager Clapper requested he be allowed to interrupt UFC meeting in order to present a certificate of appreciation to Tiiu Gray-Fow for all of her years of service to the city as a member of the former Tree Commission, now Urban Forestry Commission. Gray-Fow expressed her gratitude at the recognition for her service. She said, "It was fun working on these and she was proud to have played a part."

Chuck Nass continued the detention pond discussion by stating that the Clay Street detention pond will be completed this year and hopefully also the Bloomingfield pond. Next year we can replant trees.

Bird City/Bird Talk: There has been another Swift Tower Committee meeting. Ginny Coburn has drafted a letter for fundraising that will be sent to various groups to hopefully raise enough funds to build our first tower. Towers will cost around \$2,000 each (approximately). Knedler asked about possible locations for the towers. Coburn reported that David Salsa suggested Cravath Lake Park where bridge goes at end near railroad tracks near Mill Pond and another near gazebo. Coburn stated that information plaques will be located near towers to explain their purpose. Chuck suggested that one might be placed by new detention pond, one near Starin Rd. detention pond and another near Clay Street pond. Matt Amundson said that Chuck Nass will make placement decision if they are near detention ponds, and that he will make the decision if they are in parks. Coburn will meet with Chuck Nass to make recommendations. Zarinnia asked if the high school tech ed department could make the towers for us, and will

check into their interest. Kits are available online. McCulloch added that Mariette Nowak had advised that we start small in order to not end up with empty towers.

Coburn said that Stone gave a wonderful presentation on Bird City at the Bassett House. Stone said that she gave a fifteen minute presentation explaining the Bird City criteria, talked about the Main Street Festival and the robin perches and Bluebird houses that were made there, about bird hazards, explained catios, about the Swift Tower project and Swift Night Out, handed out informational sheets about plants that attract hummingbirds and also mentioned the Seed Library and the Effigy Mounds projects. She said there was a lot of interest in preservation of the mounds. She had a great time!

Coburn gave a report on the Seed Library plans. How to preserve seeds over the winter so that they will be viable for spring planting. Heritage and native seeds will be offered. If you have seeds from native plants to share, contact Coburn. Gray-Fow mentioned that some large cities are turning off lights at night in order to help birds navigate during migration.

Website Development: City forgot to turn wi-fi on for Zarinnia to demonstrate updates on website. Chuck Nass advised her to talk to Tim. Zarinnia explained how to get to UFC site, and asked Stanek to be administrator because she will have data in the meeting minutes to insert into the calendar. Zarinnia has worked extensively on getting this working well and organized. She asked if Chuck would like connections between city forester and UFC. Zarinnia is working to make it very navigable and comfortable to find what you are looking for. Matt Amundson has been very helpful and Rec Desk has been also. Municicode handles our city ordinances. Chuck Nass would like to have leaf collection, compost site information, etc. be on there.

Plan Board Report: Stanek said that she had mentioned the very old oak tree that will be coming down during the housing project that is upcoming at the site of the former Olsen Funeral Home. It won't be saved.

Park Board Report: Knedler reported that meeting was very short. As far as Park Tour planning goes, he would like us to visit some of the parks to give suggestions on where to start. Will discuss in May what we can do at some of the parks, small things. Motion made suggesting that we UFC members take the time to visit the parks so that we can decide at May meeting which two to start with.

Future Events: Wednesday, May 6th there will be an Arbor Day Celebration and tree planting at the home of Tiiu Gray-Fow to recognize her many years of service to the city. Chuck Nass asked Gray-Fow if she would like a Serviceberry tree to be planted in the terrace in front of her house to thank her.

Zarinnia, Knedler and Nass will all be out of town for May meeting. Coburn requested that they share their thoughts ahead of the meeting via email. Gray-Fow moved that meeting be adjourned; Coburn seconded; approved unanimously.

Next meeting: May 26th, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary