

UFC Oct. 27 2015 Minutes:

Call to Order: 4:30 P.M.

Roll Call: Present: Teri Smith, Andy Beckman, Karen Coburn, Brandon Knedler, Karen McCulloch, Jerry Schoen, Sherry Stanek, Bev Stone

Absent: Anne Zarinnia

McCulloch explained her absences due to having a booth at the City Market. She added that she very much wants to be part of the UFC activities and in the future will plan for help at the booth and pledged 2 hours of outside time contribution to the Commission projects. The membership stated it's appreciation for all her past work and was pleased that she was able to stay on.

Smith moved to **approve the Agenda**, McCulloch second, unanimous approval.
Stone moved to **approve minutes**, McCulloch seconded, unanimous approval

Staff Report: Beckman said staff is getting ready to order trees for next spring. The UFC needs to prepare plan for Clay St. Nature Park for Nass and Amundson to approve. Knedler would like Coburn to approach city on burying power lines in order to be able to plant larger trees. Would the cost be assessed to homeowners. The SE Quadrant will be planted next year. Coburn would like the UFC members to look at the area and see where needed trees might be planted. A list will be compiled for the November meeting. Coburn would also like the list of the trees to be ordered by Nass. The UFC will be working with consultants to design what will be planted in the Clay St. Nature Park. Forming a citizen ad hoc committee would be helpful and involve the community. Knedler will talk to Matt Amundson, the director of Parks and Recreation about a hummingbird/butterfly garden. Coburn said there is a lovely spot for a picnic table. The dock may be replaced because it is unsteady.

Bird City/ Bird Talk: Schoen gave a talk to Paul Major's wildlife class at the high school. He came back another day to assist the students in setting up 2 bluebird houses that were decorated by students at the Main St. festival. Starin Park is being considered for another placement.

Seed Library: Coburn gathered seeds from some native plantings at the Coburn Co. warehouse. She gave them for processing to Richard Ehrenberg. He places them in packets to be refrigerated at the library for people to check out.

Chair Report: Coburn informed committee that Neighborhood Services Director, Chris Munz-Pritchard would like UFC to review landscape plans for proposed developments to include more native species and to eliminate invasives where possible and to generally educate about the reasons for doing this.

Coburn presented the Summit Dental landscaping draft for consideration by the UFC. The goal is to recommend native planting as much as possible. There were a few suggestions from members. Smith commented that the Bradford Pear tree would be smelly and suggested the Pin Cherry or Black Cherry. Also, she recommended the Turk's Cap over the Pardon Me Daisy and a Coreopsis over the Shasta Daisy. Knedler wondered about planting trees by the retention pond. Coburn commented that she understood that the city would be managing the pond area. There was a motion by Knedler that the smaller landscape study group would finalize the landscape plan, Stone seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Tree City/Tree Talk: The Champion Tree Program was discussed. Zarinnia found this Wisconsin program after concerns about saving the trees at the former Olsen Funeral Home at Main and Prince Streets. Possible project for next year? Stanek would like to involve UW students concerned with this issue in project. McCulloch shared concern about wildlife and birds who use these old trees as their habitat. UFC needs to focus on educating citizens and developers about these concerns. Coburn passed out Fitchburg Survey. Stone moved to go forward with Champion Tree program, McCulloch seconded; unanimous approval. McCulloch moved that we review Fitchburg survey, Smith seconded, unanimous approval.

Website: No report. Zarinnia absent

Plan Board: We need to find out how lot coverage is calculated.

Park Board: Clay St. Nature Area will be planted in spring. Recommendations are needed for other parks too. UFC has toured Minieska and Skyway so far.

Effigy Mounds: Midwest Prairie has completed contract for 2015. Landmarks reported that some mowing has happened over ends of mounds. They aren't clearly delineated. Signage will be put in place on stones demarcating mounds. Lidar Imaging will be taking place and signage is in progress and will be completed with UFC and Scott Weberpal.

Knedler moved to adjourn, Smith seconded; unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: November 26, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Coburn and
Sherry Stanek, secretary