

## Urban Forestry Commission Minutes, July 28, 2015

Roll Call: Present: Karen Coburn, Anne Zarinnia, Beverly Stone, Teri Smith, Sherry Stanek

Absent: Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Visitors: Kori Oberle and Jerry Schoen

Approval of Agenda: Coburn requested removal of Meadowsweet Park visit due to time constraints. Stone so moved. Stanek seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Approval of minutes from June 23, 2015. Oberle requested 2 changes regarding the Effigy Mounds. The first was to remove “to make small paths more apparent” and replace with “at the request of Midwest Prairie”. The second was to remove “would like to use ground penetrating radar” and replace with “has been asked to use LiDAR to differentiate the mound’s borders”. Stanek corrected the minutes. Zarinnia voted to approve. Smith seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.

Alternate member: Coburn reported that approval by the Park Board was given for an alternate member. It will be voted on by the Common Council.

Staff report: Trees are being watered, especially now because of so little rain. Stone reported that she was working with Walton to keep a recently moved tree well watered.

Stone read an article from the Kenosha paper about how trees create healthier and happier lives for the community.

Jerry Schoen reported that many trees in his area had died and were replanted. A tree on Foxglove is leaning and needs staking. He suggested our website have a place to note trees that need staking. Zarinnia will check to see if that would be possible. The question was asked if the detention pond at Meadowsweet Park is

clay lined? Schoen reported that the mowing was becoming wider and interfering with plantings. He added that he felt that the plantings were done incorrectly. Coburn asked of the city plans to add wetland plants at new detention ponds. The Park Board approved Walton for digging ponds and dock. UFC will contact Park Board to see what is being planned. Coburn said that she appreciated the rain garden at Trippe Lake. Coburn asked about which quadrant will be planted next year and what is the replacement policy for trees that come down. Also, a citizen had asked about terrace and parking lot tree planting around the library. Neumeister responded that the library board made requests on library land, but terrace tree additions were decided by the city. Zarinnia wants us to remember that an arboretum could be the whole city instead of just one location.

Japanese Knotweed: Coburn passed out instructions for homeowners to recognize and remove Japanese Knotweed. The DNR wants it reported and removed. Glyphosate should not be used near the water where much of it grows. There are other herbicides that are appropriate for aquatic use.

Bird City/Bird Talk:

Chimney Swift tower fundraising has begun. Mailers went out today. There will be a UFC table at the next Farmer's Market for fundraising and general information. Coburn asked for a suggestion of a carpenter to build the first tower and anyone willing to help. Also, Coburn will ask the city to build the concrete base. The fundraising letter is on the Banner. The dedication is hopefully scheduled as part of the Downtown Celebration on September 12. A Swift Night Out was discussed, but an appropriate night was not decided on.

Hazards for birds: Coburn reported a good response from Janna Burhop and a couple veterinarians for placing an educational pamphlet at their establishments about cats being a danger to birds.

Plan Board report: Stanek had no report.

Coburn reported that she spoke with Chris Munz-Prichard, Neighborhood Service Director, about possibly removing the directive from the UFC handbook to have input on landscaping reviews coming to the Plan Board. Coburn felt that it should be removed if the timing was too difficult to implement. Munz-Prichard wanted it to remain and would try to bring the UFC into the process as an advisory group.

Park Board: Knedler not present.

Park Board member, Kori Oberle, said that the city was looking at a 5 to 10 yr. plan for the Effigy Mounds. Midwest Prairie is part one of the contract. It worked with the city crew to spot treat weeds. The front will be mowed the following week. Midwest Prairie is training city workers to take over much of the work. Park Board member, Ken Kidd, suggested planting with ginger as a ground cover. There is no money in the 2016 budget for plants. Monday, Aug 3, will be the second meeting of the Friends of the Mounds at the library, 6:00 to 7:30. Signage will be unveiled. Oberle will send the proposal to Coburn for the UFC to look at. The Friends group is hoping to work with community organizations, the University, and High School students who might fulfill their service requirements by helping maintain the Mounds. Coburn asked how the UFC might help. She asked for a tree inventory. The UFC might consider a program on birds that migrate through the mounds as well as those that reside there year round. Smith expressed concern about people digging up wild ginger to sell or use. There is no digging allowed in the Preserve.

Visit to Meadowsweet Park: Cancelled

Stone moved to adjourn. Smith seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

Next meeting August 25, 2015

Respectfully submitted, Sherry Stanek, Secretary