

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2017**

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:30 by Chair Coburn.

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Anne Zarinnia, Jerry Schoen, Brandon Knedler, Nick Alt, Rose Mary Leaver, Karen McCulloch, Sherry Stanek

Staff: Chuck Nass

Approval of Agenda: Motion by McCulloch to approve agenda, Leaver 2nd, unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve by Zarinnia with changes to replace Leaver with Coburn under Bird City/Bird Talk discussion of Who's Woods, and change Lincs to Lincoln, McCulloch 2nd, unanimously approved with changes.

Treasurer's Report: Knedler has checkbook and will call bank to have statements mailed to him instead of to Coburn.

Public comments statement read by Coburn out of order.

Staff Report: Nass reported that 176 trees have been ordered for 2017 planting with a total bill to city of \$20,633. Trees are 1 ¼" and 1 ½" diameter and include 27 species of trees including 16 native species. Nass will send Coburn an email with the complete list but said that the order includes New London planetree (similar to Sycamore), Black Gum, Pear and Magnolias among others. Current city policy states that when a tree is damaged, if perpetrator can be identified, person is charged \$200 for each diameter inch of tree (up to 8"). Nass would like the charge to be updated to \$300 per diameter inch (up to 8") to more accurately cover cost of replacement tree, planting and establishment of the new tree. This proposed increase will be on February UFC Agenda.

No construction is planned for 2017 while grants are written for 2018 construction projects.

Coburn expressed concern about overuse of detention ponds in new construction landscape plans, due to consideration that must be given planting in those spaces. In particular, in order for the detention/retention ponds to work, trees cannot be planted in these basins. Nass reported that the State of Wisconsin calculates storm water points for each proposal so that adequate storm water management is maintained. Municipalities must continue to show improvement of storm water management to qualify for grants.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Coburn reported that Bird City renewal for 2017 is being submitted this week. UFC did much more than was required to meet requirements. Under Creation of Habitat we proposed plantings at Minneiska Park because it's part of a wildlife corridor; we established

the Clay Street Park Hummingbird and Butterfly native plant garden at Clay Street Nature Park; we welcomed Bernadette Williams of the State DNR to speak on invasive plants; Prairie Bob spoke at the library about native plants; we participated in the Downtown Mainstreet Festival; we worked with Neighborhood Services on construction landscape plans with an emphasis on replacing botanicals with WI native plants and the elimination of invasive plantings from proposed plans; we sponsored a window at the Irvin L. Young Library highlighting Notable/Champion trees accompanied by many new books on trees; we nominated area woodpeckers as Bird of the Year and created a brochure with information on this species; we continued to educate the public about the danger of free roaming cats, and we plan to do more on this in 2017; we worked with the Whitewater Arts Alliance on their bird photography exhibit and sale and also participated in the creation of a Main Street Bird display on the city's streetlights during the summer of 2016; and we participated in the Janesville Rotary Gardens spring event, with a table offering information on birds, trees, cats etc.

Some members of the UFC will be attending the Wild Ones Conference "In Harmony With Nature" on Saturday, January 28, 2017 in Oshkosh. Those attending will meet at the parking lot across from city hall at 6:30 a.m.

Bird City Web Report: McCulloch checked to see how other communities are fulfilling their Bird City requirements. She reported that Ferryville, WI (pop. 176) has been a Bird City for 4 years. A local birder there compiled lists of birds that visit there and lists of Backyard and Christmas Bird Counts. This area is included in the Upper Mississippi Conservation Area. It is known for its bald eagle population and has put covenants in place for their protection from logging in order to preserve their habitat. They celebrate "Bald Eagle Day" in March. For International Migratory Bird Day last spring, they hosted a hike and 54 people took part in 2016

Snowy Owl Bird of the Year for 2017: Schoen distributed his report on the Snowy Owl and Coburn reported that it will be made into a leaflet for distribution this year. Lincoln Elementary School, which choose this year's Bird of the Year, will be presenting Snowy Owl information and books in one of the library's display windows in March.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Alt will take position as liaison with Wes Enterline, UW-W Sustainability Coordinator, for work to be done at Walton Oaks Park. Alt will arrange to have photos taken before, during and after work is done. Ginny Coburn, Alt, Coburn, Schoen and Stanek will meet with Wes and his intern at 2 p.m. tomorrow at WOP for a walkthrough to identify invasive trees and shrubs for removal.

Coburn submitted final report on Skyway Park to Park and Recreation Board.

Plan Commission Report: Stanek reported that there was no meeting in December.

Park & Rec Board Report: Knedler reported that the Park Board approved Skyway Plan with Nass verifying trees and shrubs. He also reported that neighbors of Walton Oak Parks are to vacate the park by June 1, 2017.

Fund Raising: Alt donated raw honey that he has bottled from his bees for UFC to sell at Farmer's Market and elsewhere as a fund raiser for UFC. Thank you Nick! Prices will be \$6.00 for the 1# bottle, \$4.50 for large bear bottle and \$3.00 for the small bear bottle.

Planning for 2017: Schoen has a book that defines Champion Trees. He mentioned the large ginko tree in the yard at Mercy Urgent Care Clinic on Main St. Zarinnia and Schoen had a discussion on the difference between the state's Champion Tree program and Whitewater's Notable Tree effort.

Ideas put forward: Tree activity or competition to highlight the Notable Tree program
Zarinnia, Alt and McCulloch will come up with plan to present at February meeting.
Community education about free roaming cats
Backyard Bird Count
Library Window and talk
Arbor Day tree planting with children

Adjourn: Schoen moved to adjourn, McCulloch 2nd, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in City Manager's conference room, 312 Whitewater, St.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary