

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2017

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Coburn at 4:32 p.m.

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

Staff: Chuck Nass

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by McCulloch, 2nd by Leaver; unanimous.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve January minutes by Zarinnia, 2nd by McCulloch; unanimous

Treasurer's Report: Knedler reported that UFC checking account balance is \$836.97 after deposits from honey sales of \$88.50 and a check to reimburse Alt for honey expenses of \$11.53.

Nass will requisition city for reimbursement of education expenses related to January 28 Wild Ones Conference in Oshkosh and also mileage expense for Alt and Stanek.

Staff: Nass handed out copies of receipts to McKay and Johnsons Nursery for 2017 trees. No planting yet, but many will go on Center St., and others will replace dead Ash trees. Staff have removed about 100 Ash so far with approx. another 100 to go and 274 are being treated for Emerald Ash Borer.

Tree Farm: Nass was asked about the need for trees around the school district with the renovations that will begin in spring. Nass suggested that district start a tree farm on the back of the high school property so that they can pull from there when trees are needed on school property. The school district is responsible for trees on district property.

Nass suggested that we take a tour of the city tree farm in June or July since UFC has so many new members who are not familiar with it.

Terrace Trees & Homeowners: City plants terrace trees and maintains them. Homeowner is responsible for the trees on their property except for the terrace trees. If terrace area is too small to support a tree, homeowner can request that the tree be planted in their yard instead, with owner taking responsibility for the tree at that location.

Jacob Maas is a new full time Public Works staff and will be taking the Certified Arborist Training and test. When he passes, he will be the fourth staff member with arborist certification.

Bird City/Bird Talk: 4 UFC members went to the Wild Ones Conference in Oshkosh on January 28. Stanek particularly enjoyed the presentation on surveying the land. Alt noted that it was possible to tell what trees were there originally. All agreed there were many interesting and informative classes and also interesting informational handouts. It was a good day and we learned a lot. Alt also mentioned the Territorial Tree on Franklin St. in Whitewater.

McCulloch gave her Bird City Report on how International Migratory Bird Day is marked in Lake Geneva, Madison, and Stevens Point. Lake Geneva does a Swift Night Out, Madison has a combined IMBD/Earth Day celebration at Warner Park in April with a band, birdhouse building and installation along with Friends of Urban Nature Partner group. They feature native plant and bird walks, pontoon rides, and walk to Fire Island which is a restored prairie where John Muir used to stand to look at UW-Madison. Stevens Point does a field trip with field guides, IMBD programming, touring a park on Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, identifying 55 species.

Coburn proposed that we all look at the EFTA website to help plan an event at Cravath Lakefront building on August 8 during the City Market time period, possibly featuring games, interactive paint murals, prizes and popcorn. Coburn needs to get a resolution in to Bird City in the week or so. Ideas offered included a giant calendar with birds' migration times on it, ask Scott Weberpal to do a bird walk at Fowler's Woods, beginning at 6 a.m. the first week in May to see migrating birds. Knedler made a motion to hold a bird walk the first week in May beginning at 6 a.m. to see migrating birds. Alt 2nd, unanimously approved.

Stanek is to give a presentation on the importance of planting native plants at 6:30 p.m. on March 29th at the library. Lincoln Elementary 5th graders are going to do the window at the library on the Snowy Owl which they voted to be the 2017 Bird of The Year. Coburn will give them a copy of the Snowy Owl brochure. Alt knows an Ornithologist and will bring his business card to the next meeting.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Zarinnia reported that they looked to see where trees can be planted around the city. The UW-W parking lots needs trees as they are not up to current city ordinances. Coburn and Zarinnia went to Cemetery Association meeting. Association members said they have no money for tree planting and they have no water on site if others plant them. The first Walton Oak Park workday will be held on March 5th at 1 p.m. to cut and treat buckthorn trees. Marking of oaks and natives will also continue. Natives with white tape, oaks with green, invasives with orange.

Discussion was had about getting citizens engaged. McCulloch suggested using social media, facebook, etc., the Daily Union and Banner, maybe a monthly article highlighting what UFC is working on, and inviting volunteers to take part.

Bringing Nature Home book was purchased for the library.

Plan Board: Stanek explained that citizens were concerned that Landscape Plans didn't seem to be included in building plans anymore. She explained that the city is letting builders have their engineering work done first, and then submitting their landscape plans which are then reviewed by City Planner, City Forester and UFC including recommendations to exchange natives for non-natives and to eliminate invasive species.

Park Board: Park Board is working on estimates and proposals for fixing Cravath and Trippe Lakes, possible dredging etc.

Fund Raising: Honey update is in Treasurer's Report.

Announcements: Meadowsweet will be the next park UFC will be evaluating for the Park Board.

Suggested Topics for Future Meetings: Honey price review, volunteer list

Adjournment: Stanek moved to adjourn, Leaver 2nd, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: March 27, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary