

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 27, 2016**

Call to Order

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

Staff: Absent

Approval of Agenda: Stanek moved to approve the agenda, McCulloch seconded, unanimously approved

Approval of April Minutes: McCulloch moved to approve April minutes, Knedler seconded, unanimously approved.

Approval of June Minutes: Zarinnia moved to approve June minutes, Leaver seconded, unanimously approved.

Election of Officers: Knedler presided over election. McCulloch nominated Coburn for Chair, Zarinnia seconded, unanimously approved. Stanek nominated McCulloch for Vice Chair, Leaver seconded, unanimously approved. Zarinnia nominated Knedler for Treasurer, (in the event we ever have money) Coburn seconded, unanimously approved. Zarinnia nominated Stanek for Secretary, Leaver seconded, unanimously approved.

Staff Report: No report. Coburn will ask Nass about the three trees that were to be planted at Cravath after the new boat launch was completed and also about the tree that was to be planted at Cravath to honor Tiu Gray-Fow as well as let him know about the mangled tree guards north of Main St. on Prince Street.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Coburn passed out new brochure on Woodpeckers, our 2016 Bird of The Year, developed by Jerry Schoen and put together by Coburn's son - thank you! Schoen also has two woodpeckers that he has

carved out of wood that can be on display at the Main Street Festival on September 11, 2016. Leaver will either borrow the bird guessing game from Janesvillie's Rotary Garden day or will make one for the Main Street Festival as well. Coburn asked Stanek to bring a log to display woodpecker replicas on and she said she would. Schoen and Stanek agreed to help with the festival on that day. Leaver shared an oscillating bird toy that could be made by kids at our table.

Bird count or Swift Night Out are still in the planning stages.

Fall School Outreach - McCulloch reported that she is hoping to get Michelle Defire's Ecological Biology class at WHS involved in an activity where they would possibly identify plantings which benefit birds, pollinators and the environment generally, and may include a hike at Walton Oaks Park. Another suggestion was to hold a photo contest of woodpeckers for school kids. Knedler suggested that we let school kids vote on who should be our Bird of The Year for 2017 by choosing a bird they see in their yards, figuring out what they eat and other information about them and then having the kids vote on the ones that were proposed. We do still need to do something this year and McCulloch will develop this.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Work continues on Downtown Walking Arboretum. Schoen submitted information sheets on the new trees that have been planted over the last year for signs that will be placed at each tree. We will work with Nass to have the signs made and installed.

Plan Board Report: Stanek said she reminded the Plan Commission members about the importance of continuing to educate developers about native plants and to encourage their inclusion in landscape plans.

Park Board Report: Park Board has been very busy with everything involved with taking over the running of the Aquatic Center for the last few months. Coburn will give a report to the Park Board on Walton Oaks Park and Minnieska Park at their August 17th meeting.

Home Lumber Landscaping: In working on the Home Lumber landscape requirements, Zarinnia reorganized the Whitewater Landscape Plan in an effort to clarify, streamline and simplify this information for developers as requested by the Plan Board several months ago. She submitted it to Chris Munz-Pritchard who then put it into spreadsheet form to make it easier to meet the point requirements on one page. This would be used in conjunction with existing Landscape Policy which is also to be simplified. Coburn said that we need to develop a policy with regard to detention ponds because they are being used extensively to deal with watershed problems. In many cases, trees are being lost and not replaced because these detention ponds are not necessarily plantable. The DNR needs to be consulted to find out what can be planted around them. This is a work in progress

Park Landscaping Progress: Coburn reported that our group would like a general idea of what the Park Board is looking for as we review parks for them so that we are working together more efficiently. Coburn also reported that she invited Wes Enterline of the UW-W Sustainability Center and Maggie Zoellner to tour Walton Oaks Park which they did. They are submitting reports on the value of this park, and were very interested in these old oak trees and Coburn was told that Chicago Wilderness is looking for parks like Walton Oaks Park to preserve. More information to follow. Coburn would like a vote taken on how Urban Forestry members feel about Walton Oaks Park being encroached on by an adjacent neighbor as outlined at April 2016 UFC meeting. Zarinnia moved that a clear delineation be made at all of our parks where they meet adjoining properties so that citizens are comfortable using these public areas, and that any encroachments be enforced by city ordinance to preserve our parks. Schoen seconded, unanimously approved.

Clay Street Butterfly/Hummingbird Garden: Land is prepared and mulched and will be planted when the temperatures moderate. Stanek feels that planting now would doom the plants and that planting them later this summer so that they can establish their root systems before winter is

the most prudent way to proceed. The high temperatures for the last month are too stressful for the plants to get established.

New Meeting Time: Knedler reported that Nass and staff are unable to attend UFC meetings on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays and recommended that we consider either Monday or Tuesday again. Coburn will contact Nass to see how he feels about meeting on Mondays because this works the best for members out of those two days.

Adjournment: Stanek moved to adjourn, McCulloch seconded, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary