

March 22, 2016
Urban Forestry Meeting Minutes

Prior to the beginning of our meeting, we were joined by Chris Munz-Pritchard, Neighborhood Services Director for the city of Whitewater, for a discussion of the requested updating of The Landscape Guidelines and the city's Urban Forestry Ordinance, 2.52.090. Chris told us that at the January 2016 Plan Commission meeting, Chuck Nass, City Forester, gave a presentation to the board regarding the city's Landscape Guidelines and in particular, the need to put into the language of the ordinance a provision stating that "if a proposed development removes large trees and has no space in the development to plant the replacement trees required by The Landscape Guidelines, the equivalent dollars will be charged to the developer and placed in a 'Tree Fund' where it will be drawn on to plant replacement trees elsewhere in the city."

After his presentation, Plan Board members requested that the guidelines be simplified and reviewed by the UFC to make them easier to understand and enforce. A subcommittee will be formed made up of UFC members, Chris Munz-Pritchard and possibly Chuck Nass.

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Jerry Schoen, Anne Zarinnia, Sherry Stanek.

Absent: Brandon Knedler and Bev Stone,

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Motion by Zarinnia and seconded by McCulloch to move presentation by Jerry Schoen to the beginning of the meeting because of time concerns, unanimously approved.

Motion to approve minutes of February meeting with the adding Sherry Stanek as absent, by Zarinnia, seconded by McCulloch, unanimously approved.

Woodpecker Presentation by Jerry Schoen: Schoen presented a wonderful informative description of the woodpeckers found in Wisconsin, accompanied by beautiful photographs of these birds. He explained the unique anatomical features of each type that help them find the food that they eat, including long sticky tongues, barbed tongues, etc., and very hard beaks for drilling. Coburn asked him if he would write up the information and pictures from his presentation so that we could use it for

educational purposes this year as the woodpecker is our Bird of The Year. He agreed. Stanek asked if we could use his amazing bird carvings also for a possible window display at the library at some point this year and he said he would! He also reported on the bluebird houses that were installed last fall. He found one false nest which could be from a bluebird claiming that house for spring. He found another that the door had become stuck.

Staff Report: Brian Neumeister reported that the progress on pruning so far has been delayed because of the reconstruction of Center Street which has begun in earnest. He said that they are waiting for the delivery schedule of the trees that will be planted this spring/summer.

Brian reported that he, Andy Beckman and Chuck Nass attended the State Arborists Conference and learned a lot. Stanek asked if people could get information on pruning water shoots off of terrace trees in front of their homes. Brian said that the people could call the city and request that someone come out and trim the terrace trees because the terrace trees should be pruned by city staff. Coburn made a motion that a notice be put onto the city website instructing community members with concerns about the terrace trees in front of their property, to contact the City Forester's office. McCulloch seconded, passed unanimously.

Brian said that he would like to see information about street trees and invasive species disseminated to the public at large, possibly on the city website or the Banner and UFC members agreed that this would be a good idea.

Coburn asked about the city's tree inventory and Brian said that it probably needs updating and will talk to Chuck about this.

Report and Discussion: Ordinance 2.52.090 - Urban Forestry Commission: McCulloch and Coburn had a preliminary meeting prior to today's meeting to discuss the city ordinance for UFC. McCulloch recommended that 'shall' be replaced with 'must' in all instances throughout document, and would also like the word 'committee' changed to 'commission' throughout the document. Coburn said that a subcommittee will be formed to review both the UFC Ordinance and The Landscape Guidelines and asked for volunteers. McCulloch, Zarinnia, Schoen and Stanek agreed to serve. Stanek made a motion, seconded by Coburn, to form this Subcommittee to Review both the ordinance and The Landscape Guidelines. Unanimously approved. Initial meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30th at 1 p.m. at City Hall unless this is too early for 72 hour notification requirement. Coburn will check with Jane and Chris Munz-Pritchard. First meeting will only discuss Landscape Guidelines.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Coburn reported that the Janesville Rotary Gardens have invited the UFC to have a table at their Earth Day Celebration on April 23, 2016 from 10 - 2 pm Coburn and McCulloch will represent the UFC that day, Ginny Coburn will lend her

excellent Bird Display for the event and community member Dan Sable has very generously offered to create a replica of our new Swift Tower for display as well! Coburn reported that Mr. Sable has already delivered the replica to her and that it is about 3- 4 feet tall and really great! Coburn will send a thank you to Dan. This will work toward fulfilling our requirement to maintain our Bird City status.

Swift Tower Dedication: Coburn reported that the sign for the Swift Tower is in production and will be finished soon. Discussion took place on the dedication components, date, time of day and so on. This dedication could be timed with International Migratory Bird Day in mid-May. The gathering will take place about an hour before dusk at the tower behind the Community Building at Cravath Lakefront Park where the Swift Tower is located, so that Chimney Swifts might be seen. Coburn is working on the rest of the details.

UFC Membership Update: Coburn reported that she had talked to member Teri Smith and found that Teri does not have time to serve on the UFC. Therefore, Jerry Schoen will move from alternate member to member and Rose Mary Leaver has agreed to serve as our new alternate member. Thank you to all for their service!

Clay Street Nature Park Update: Stanek reported that she, Coburn and Ehrenberg had met and mapped out the location for the Hummingbird Butterfly Garden and also assembled a final list of the plants to put there, based on the information from the subcommittee. We will buy our plants from local suppliers instead of ordering them from catalogs. Stanek contacted Blodgett Garden Center in Fort Atkinson and they are anxious to work with us and Patty's Plants in Milton is also on the list as a great supplier of native plants. The park bed will be prepared when weather permits and the time gets closer.

Tree Committee Report: Zarinnia handed out a poster and Tree Survey samples to members along with notices that have been published regarding the new community Tree Survey. It is already up and running online. She also talked with the Chancellor at UW-W regarding trees on campus. The city does not manage the trees on campus. She found out that there is a Landscaping Committee in charge of campus and may attend their meeting, expressing the desire to have the tree canopy on campus maintained as part of the larger tree canopy for the city. Zarinnia made the Tree Survey available on campus and announced that we would like to work cooperatively with them to this end. This Tree Survey will work toward education requirements of the city's Tree City status as part of the education of the community.

Plan Commission Report: Stanek reported on the January Plan Commission meeting since she was not at the February UFC meeting. She talked about Chuck Nass' report

on the city's Landscape Guidelines and his request that we update them to include the provision for requiring developers to contribute a dollar amount to a Tree Fund when they are unable to plant replacement trees on their development, to be used for trees to be planted elsewhere in the city so that we maintain our tree inventory. She also reported that the commission had heard a presentation on a new Bee Ordinance for the city that has been approved.

Park & Recreation Board report: Knedler asked Coburn to report that the Park Board does not yet know where handicapped access will be installed at Minnieska Park and, therefore, we can't really nail down where we would like trees planted. Matt Amundson and Chuck Nass are working on this. Coburn has to report back to the Park Board on Minnieska and will inform them that we need this information in order to form a plan for the park. Zarinnia mentioned that the tree sizes in the Landscape Guidelines are too broad, with small trees being those that grow up to 25' and large trees being those that grow 25' or larger. She requested that this be better defined so that when canopy trees are being discussed, we can be assured that this is what is being planted. Many trees that may grow larger than 25' are not considered canopy trees.

Coburn reported that a partial list of the parks to be reviewed in 2016 is Walton Oaks Park, Whitewater Creek Nature Area and two others. Before our April meeting, members of UFC will visit Walton Oaks and share our recommendations at the April meeting.

Citizen Comments: None

Suggested topics for future meetings: How we can encourage nominations for the Notable Tree project, and having Chuck Nass give a presentation on how we choose the trees to be planted in the city.

Zarinnia moved to adjourn, McCulloch seconded, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary