

Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Whitewater Municipal Building
Tuesday, November 15, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Tiiu Gray-Fow at 4:28 pm.

Attendance: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Jay Craggs, Andrew Crone, Karen Coburn, Bev Stone (4:35), Jen Kaina (5:17)
Staff: Chuck Nass, Latisha Birkeland, Matt Amundson
Guests: Richard Ehrenberg, Roy Nosek

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Karen Coburn, seconded by Jay Craggs. The agenda was passed by a voice vote of 4-0 (Gray-Fow, Craggs, Crone, Coburn)

The minutes were amended to clarify that a request was made for Roy Nosek to send his thoughts and pictures to the Urban Forestry Commission prior to the next meeting. A motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011 Urban Forestry Commission meeting was made by Karen Coburn and seconded by Andrew Crone.

As a citizen comment, Roy Nosek raised concerns regarding tree guards being removed in his neighborhood and not installed on trees along Whitewater Street.

The process of placing landscape plans for review by the Urban Forestry Commission was discussed with Latisha Birkeland, newly appointed Neighborhood Services Manager / Planner . It was moved by Karen Coburn that the Neighborhood Services Manager / City Planner , Latisha Birkeland, share plans at her discretion with the Urban Forestry Commission in a timely fashion so that comments from the Urban Forestry Commission can be included in her report to the Plan Commission. The motion was seconded by Bev Stone. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote of 5-0. (Gray-Fow, Craggs, Crone, Coburn, Stone)

An update was provided on the expansion of 804/808/818 Walworth Avenue.

A brief update was given on Treyton's Field of Dreams progress.

A motion was made by Bev Stone to approve the Emerald Ash Borer Policy Action Plan for Preserving Selected Ash Trees. Jay Craggs seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 4-0 voice vote (Stone, Craggs, Gray-Fow, Crone).

Chuck Nass shared plans for 2012 annual planting list which highlights resident requests, replacements, and plans for additional trees to be planted in the SW Quadrant of the City.

Chuck Nass provided information on the present tree availability list from contacted nurseries. Discussion ensued regarding the photographic examples of additional tree species that might be desirable choices for planting as terrace trees. Dr. Roy Nosek provided the photos and suggested that we recommend to the City Forester that more of them be added to the present tree order. If that couldn't be done, there was consensus that the item could be discussed at more length at future meetings, especially since some of the trees are already being ordered. Andrew Crone raised concerns related to ensuring that we are encouraging native varieties of trees, trees native to Southeast Wisconsin. Jay Craggs stated that this group should also factor in allergen levels in the future planting plans. Richard Ehrenberg shared that he has a listing of native trees.

Chuck Nass reported that there are no items on the current tree cut list.

Bev Stone moved to change Urban Forestry Commission meetings to the 4th Tuesday of the month. Seconded by Karen Coburn. A unanimous voice vote of 6-0 passes the motion.

It was determined that due to the holidays, no December meeting will be scheduled unless an issue arises that requires a meeting in December.

Jay Craggs moved to adjourn, seconded by Jen Kaina. A unanimous voice vote passed the motion, 6-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Amundson

Matt Amundson, CPRP
Parks & Recreation Director