

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2012 – 4:15 p.m.
Cravath Lakefront Room – 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190

MINUTES

1. Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by Chair Tiiu Gray-Fow. A quorum was present.
2. PRESENT: Andrew Crone, Karen Coburn, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Brandon Knedler, Karen McCulloch, Beverly Stone. ABSENT: Jay Craggs. STAFF: Chuck Nass, City Forester. GUEST: Richard Ehrenberg, Roy Nosek. Introduction of new representative from Park and Recreation Board, Brandon Knedler.
3. Moved by Beverly Stone, seconded by Karen Coburn that agenda be approved. *Motion carried – AYES 6, NOES 0.*

4. Minutes of November 15, 2011:

Moved by Karen Coburn, seconded by Brandon Knedler that the minutes be approved with the following additions:

A request was made that the city forester provide additional information regarding the size and diameter of trees to be planted in the southwest quadrant. It was also suggested that questionable ash tree replacements be given priority over strict adherence to the Quadrant planting policy..

Motion carried AYES: Crone, Coburn, Gray-Fow, Stone. ABSTAIN: McCulloch, Knedler. Motion Carried.

Minutes of special meeting, December 20, 2011:

Moved by Coburn, seconded by McCulloch that the minutes be approved as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Citizen Comments: N o n e .
6. Planning and Architectural Review Commission Board. None.
7. Park and Recreational Board Report. None.
8. City Forester, Chuck Nass reported on the **Milwaukee Street Project**.
 - a. The trench in the hill will be 30 feet deep, rather than 25 feet deep.
 - b. The bidding for the project will begin shortly with a possible spring date start.

Roy Nosek expressed concern for terrace construction work.

Nass stated that small trees will be removed and put in a pre-bed stage for later replanting or possible replanting upon removal after terrace is done.

Moved by Crone, seconded by McCulloch that the six pedestrian islands proposed for Milwaukee

St. between Dann St. and Green St. be planted with perennials and native plants rather than just be stamped concrete.
(Roy Nosek offered to donate a tree for each island if feasible.)

Motion carried unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Board representative, Brandon Knedler, was requested to forward the recommendation to the Board for their consideration.

9. Tree guard discussion regarding installation and removal of tree guards.
Chuck Nass reported that the following are being done regarding guard removal.

Tree Guard Removal Criteria:

Most of our trees are planted at 1" to 1 ½" trunk diameter, after 3-4 years of growth most trees reach 3 ½" trunk diameter.

We then check the trunk and make sure it is large enough for tree guard to be removed.

If it is, we make sure that the tree is well rooted and stable in most cases it is, but if not we may have to leave the tree guard on for another year or so.

We also check for any damage or problems with the tree if anything needs to be done (example pruning a damaged branch) take care of the problem right away if possible or make note of it and fix ASAP.

Also, prior to removal of guards from 3 ½" diameter, trees that are still "springy" or are unstable will retain their guards.

Following the city forester's report, Roy Nosek presented a slide program regarding his position of how tree guards should be installed and removed.

After the presentation and ensuing discussion, it was:

Moved by Crone and seconded by Gray-Fow that UFC members provide specific written criteria for tree guards to be discussed at the next meeting as a prelude to any possible additional recommendations for a tree guard appendix.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. Due to the lengthy presentation and discussion, it was moved by McCulloch and seconded by Coburn that agenda items 10 and 11 be postponed to February 28, 2012 meeting and become items 1 and 2 for action/discussion. *Motion carried* unanimously.

12. Chuck Nass reported that a tree at 543 West Whitewater St. will be removed and due to Black-Knob disease, a tree at 600 E. Milwaukee Street will be pruned and trimmed.

Proposed tree cuts and pruning, Andrew Crone suggested an EPA report from August 2010 #84HF-N-004 - on a Green infrastructure study, to UFC members.

13. Suggestions for future agenda items include:
Bird City certification

Green sustainability

14. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 4:15 p.m.
15. Move to adjourn by Beverly Stone, seconded by Karen Coburn. *Motion carried* unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Stone, Secretary