

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
Community Room
312 W. Whitewater, St., Whitewater, WI
July 26th, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Call to order: Chairperson Stanek Called the meeting to order at 4:30pm

Roll Call: Nick Alt, Bill Chandler, Rosemary Leaver, Sherry Stanek, Patrick Taylor, Jim Nies Staff: Brian Neumeister, City Forester. Guests Pat Blackmer Landmarks Commission, Richard Helmick

Election of Officers: Chair- Stanek
Vice Chair – Nick Alt
Treasury – Leaver
Secretary – Nick Alt

Treasurer's Report: Leaver
\$1038.93 Total after \$161.46 used to pay remainder of cost of Purple Martin House #2, \$95 donated toward UFC at City Market toward Purple Martin house #3 (Partly from purchases of note cards donated by Stanek's daughter Molly)

Staff Report: Neumeister
Did care of tree talk with workers, emphasized trimming and bark damage, also deck strikes and bark damage. Discussed drought and watering schedule.

Stanek and Neumeister discussed volunteer training for sucker removal on terrace trees.

He said crew has also been working on tree removal in terraces and parks due to EAB.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Jim Nies Cedarburg Green Eco Award Signage (One Yard at a time), Tree 'book club' organization, did not have a starting date, or have the discussion on who would buy the books. Clean up days, trees of distinction walk.

Discussion by people of community 3 mins: Pat Blackmer, Richard Helmick

Effigy mounds Park – not in good care, would like to have city re-route path so people are not walking across mounds. Would like a path through the park so city can remove damaged trees. Care of the Walton Oaks and Effigy Mounds was discussed at some length. Recommendation to seek outside services to accomplish this. Discussion also covered hiring a person/people to maintain Effigy Mounds and Walton oak in the special ecosystem/designation they are. These natural areas are treasures that must be managed properly. Stanek and Neumeister reported talking to Eric Boettcher about this and he has agreed to put it as an item in his budget for 2022. Recommendation was made to have a knowledgeable outside group or groups hired to manage Effigy Mounds Park and Walton Oaks Park – take statement to Parks and Rec. Board or common council.

Arboretum & Sponsorship Subcommittee Report:

Level 1 Arb Net Accreditation Approved as of July 20, 2021.

Mapping & Tagging Update -Stanek over 40 species identified and 29 tagged at this point. Grant application is being worked on by Jim Nies while Bill Chandler and Nick Alt are working on best way to advertise/promote the value of Starin Park Arboretum to get grants for development. Several local businesses have been suggested and recognized as potential sponsors. The WI DNR has a grant process where funding can be matched up to \$25,000 for urban forest, wildlife, environmental, educational development. Nies discussed Arboretum Curriculum, value of arboretum to city, set up of such, Starin Park Arboretum e-mail, who to contact etc., why trees are so important, their value to community. On Aug. 2nd, Chandler and Alt will meet to work on Sales Presentation of Arboretum at Starin Park. Partnership with City, University, School, community, neighborhood association(s), & corporate sponsors. Olivia Whittun – Urban Forestry person for WI DNR gave a large amount of tree literature to Stanek for use at city markets and other events to promote trees and said she is excited about helping Whitewater with the grant process to develop the Arboretum at Starin Park Project.

Bird City – Purple Martin Report: Chandler

Chandler has signed Whitewater up as a Purple Martin Association Member and has been filling out the PM report. Bill mentioned that the Purple Martins have been hatching well and 6 Purple martins have been flocking together near the clay street Purple Martin house. Discussed location for third Purple Martin house to be located in Arboretum at Starin Park.

Chair Report: Stanek discussed the 'Walking Quorum'. Because UFC is a city entity, it is important that our discussions of city business be at noticed meetings with minutes taken so that the public can see what we are doing.

Stanek said Oak Leaf designed by Nies should be used as a UFC logo, and will discuss this with Eric Boetcher to make sure it's fine .

Plan Board Report: Stanek: Nothing to report

Park & Rec. Report: Rep. not available

Fundraising update: City Market in Whitewater: Chandler has been playing the Purple Martin video on a loop and asking for donations for the third Purple Martin House. So far \$95 has been donated.

Items for Future Discussion:

Results of Aug. 2nd discussion.

Need another sub committee meeting breaking down grant acquisition steps & funding for 2022 Arboretum. Meeting will be set via email and noticed.

Jay Wiese from Cambridge Tree Project is giving a presentation at next meeting.

Adjourn: Moved by Leaver, 2nd Nies, unanimously passed at 6:00pm.

Next meeting: Aug. 23rd, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Nick Alt
Secretary, UFC

