

**City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission,
August 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: Call to Order by Stanek at 4:32pm

Roll Call: Present: Nick Alt, Rosemary Leaver, Karen McCulloch, Sherry Stanek, Absent: Jan Bilgen-Craggs, Koller Stettler. Staff: City Forester, Brian Neumeister.

Approval of July 29, 2019 Minutes: Motion by Leaver to approve. Stanek seconded. Unanimously approved.

Approval of August Agenda : Leaver moved to approve, McCulloch seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: No Report. The new treasurer must be named on the account.

Staff Report: Neumeister reported the staff is continuing tree removal (primarily ash) and are approximately half completed. Time and staff are limited to remove the dead and dying trees, particularly in light of the street repairs that needed addressing due to the summer heat that buckled several streets. Staff continues to treat ash trees for Emerald Ash Borer. McCulloch asked that staff address the tree wells on the Main Street sidewalks, as at least one of them appears significantly neglected; it is missing a tree, and has become overrun with weeds. Neumeister reported that in October, Asplundh will be pruning and trimming trees on the east side and the center of the city. A brief discussion was held regarding the benefit of burying utility lines.

Chair Report: Stanek addressed the lingering, unresolved issue of finalizing a tree fund, according to Landscape Policy Ordinance 2.52.090-Urban Forestry Commission, requiring the maintenance of the city's existing canopy. Stanek made a motion that the UFC begin work with Neumeister and Neighborhood Service Director Chris Munz-Pritchard to develop and finalize the ordinance to replant according to the Landscape Policy ordinance. Alt seconded. Passed unanimously.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Stanek moved to schedule the dedication of the Purple Martin house on April 4th 2020. This will allow city staff the time to erect the house in advance of the arrival of the Purple Martin scouts, and allow the public to attend, particularly the family of late UFC member, Jerry Schoen, to whose wife the house will be dedicated. Alt seconded. Passed unanimously.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Alt addressed the commission and urged input regarding how best to improve our efforts by utilizing our resources to further our reach into the community. Stanek read the UFC Mission Statement, to refresh our understanding of our roles. The consensus was that, especially in light of accelerated climate change, we focus our attention on planting and maintaining trees. Many suggestions were made including:

- ◆ Adding new members whom we know will contribute to the UFC's mission

- ◆ Connect with, and enlist as members of UFC, one or more high school students who are pursuing conservation, to serve in an outreach capacity with their school and peers to develop programs, conduct research etc.
- ◆ Research and report findings to educate community on best practices in tree planting and care, including watering, fertilizing, road salt application, etc.
- ◆ Contingency of citizens work with our city forester and get trained to prune, water and care for city/street trees.
- ◆ Maintaining our connections with University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Office of Sustainability.
- ◆ Best methods of communicating with the public, including community local access channel, radio stations, school announcements, and (revisiting the idea of) a UFC Facebook page.
- ◆ Develop programs that spark, inspire, and provide opportunity for young conservationists, such as providing young trees (Serviceberry trees?) for schoolchildren to plant and care for.

Plan Board: No report

Parks And Recreation: No report.

Future discussion: Participating in a Christmas Bird Count.

Motion to Adjourn: McCulloch moved to adjourn, Alt seconded. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen McCulloch,
Secretary, Urban Forestry Commission