

City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, October 23, 2012 – 4:15 p.m.  
Cravath Lakefront Room – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: Karen McCullouch, Karen Coburn, Beverly Stone, Tiiu Gray-Fow, Jay Craggs (arrived at 4:30 p.m.) and Brandon Knedler (arrived at 4:30 p.m.) ABSENT: Andrew Crone. STAFF: Chuck Nass, City Forester and Matt Amundson, Park and Recreation Director. GUEST: Richard Ehrenberg, Richard Helmick and James Hartwick.
3. Approval of Agenda was introduced by Stone and seconded by Gray Fow. Approved unanimously.
4. Moved by Coburn and seconded by Stone to approve the minutes of September 4, 2012. Moved by McCulloch and seconded by Coburn to approve the minutes of September 25, 2012. Both sets of minutes approved.
5. Citizen Comments: N o n e .
6. Coburn presented the 3 options for EAB infestation which came from the UFC's Emerald Ash Borer Ad Hoc Committee. Nass corrected wording of ash trees 4" or smaller and measuring 6 inches off the ground, on the documentation that Coburn presented. A question arose as to the protocol once a treatment option is selected and recommended by the UFC, i.e., will just that option go to the Parks and Recreation Board for its approval. Lengthy discussion regarding the exact role of the Ad Hoc Committee versus the UFC and who makes the decisions/changes. It was determined that the council will hear all three options but the UFC can recommend one. City Clerk, Michele Smith dropped in to explain the procedure with these options. She stated it was clarified by the Parks and Recreation Board's Matt Amundson's (Parks and Recreation Director) recollection, that the 3 options by the Ad Hoc Committee go to the UFC and Park and Recreation Board and Council. The UFC can make recommendations but not change any of the 3 options and all 3 will go to Council and Council will make the final decision. Discussion ensued regarding clarification of the exact change of council and options to present. Knedler asked for clarification regarding option 1 and the dollar budgeted. Gray-Fow explained what the City Manager told her regarding the budget. The \$5,000 in Park and Rec. budget to be used at the City Forester's discretion for regular planting and replacements will remain there. \$5,000 not under the Park and Rec. which is called the Forestry 250 fund and additional money strictly used for Emerald Ash Borer will be available. Gray-Fow stated they have support by many people and the city manager said money will be found. Ehrenburg raised concerns about the removal of 74 trees, saying they should be left to succumb. Nass explained the smaller trees are not recommended for treatment. The longer they are there, the harder it will be to replace. There is money available for 108 spring tree plantings. The treatment for this EAB is every four years.
7. Nass stated the cost of treatment varies by the size of the tree. Gray-Fow stated the EAB mitigation is not coming out of the Park and Recreation budget. Nass stated the sooner they can start treating the 303 trees, the better. The price is not going to go down. McCulloch stated the DNR has a grant program that will match funds up to \$25,000 to municipalities that have a program in place. Unfortunately, the 2013 deadline has passed but they could work on the one

for 2014. Craggs moved and Stone seconded to recommend option 1. Discussion regarding option 2 followed. Gray-Fow thought they should also discuss the other option. Cost of option 2 would be estimated at well over \$100,000. Motion to accept the 3 options by the Urban Forestry Commission by McCulloch and seconded by Stone. Approved unanimously. Stone moved and Craggs seconded to recommend option 1. AYES: McCulloch, Stone, Knedler, Gray-Fow, Coburn, Craggs. NOES: None.

8. Planning and Architectural Board Report (Coburn) Nothing to report.
9. Parks and Recreation Board Report (Knedler) Stated the board had similar discussion regarding treatments for the Emerald Ash Borer and options.
10. Nass reported Milwaukee Street is coming to a close. New planting in spring from project funds. Pedestrian islands have sod and further plantings will be done in spring. Tree guards were asked to be put on 3 trees in damage zone.
11. Citizen Comments: Richard Ehrenberg requested that several trees be relocated due to possible or perceived mis-location due to overhead wires. McCulloch asked for a preliminary tree order prepared for tree selection. Nass explained that Blue Beech trees could grow to be 30-40' with a spread of 20" so these will not be planted on Main St. Nass reaffirmed this with Tim Flood of Baileys Nursery. McCulloch questioned some area trees without guards and that they might need them. The locations were on 2<sup>nd</sup> street near Ketterhagen which Nass stated they can do. The second location was on North St by the Armory. Nass stated that one was too large for a tree guard.
12. Coburn moved and Stone seconded to have the regular UFC meeting on November 27, 2012 as normally scheduled but to cancel the December meeting. Passed unanimously.
13. Coburn moved and Stone seconded to adjourn. Pass unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McCulloch, Secretary