

**City of Whitewater  
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting  
Tuesday, July 23, 2013**

**Call to order** by Gray-Fow.

**Roll call:**

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler,  
Not present: Bev Stone, Tom Miller

Staff: **Brian Neumeister**

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by Crone to approve the agenda. Second by Coburn.  
Unanimous approval.

**Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2013 meeting:**

Motion by Crone to approve the agenda. Second by Coburn.  
Unanimous approval.

**Cravath lakefront stakeholders meeting:**

Coburn suggested it would be good to have the stakeholder meeting in fall after school is in session. Knedler stated he believed fall was the target time frame. Gray-Fow said October would be her suggestion.

Crone pointed out that most of the stores downtown were closed on the 4th July, even though this day was by far the busiest day as far as pedestrian traffic downtown. He suggested integrating a downtown festival with events at Cravath Lake Park. Crone believed it would be successful to close the entire downtown and park with bands at intersections, wrist bands for beer or wine. This concept would be enhanced with a natural walking route, not just sidewalks, to lead people between the park and downtown. Gray-Fow said it would be great to have a tree-lined walkway into town. Knedler added that it could make sense to integrate more activities between downtown and the park. Crone suggested a tree lined mall on one of the streets leading to Center street would be a great way to make store owners able to benefit more from events in the park.

**Design Committee Streetscape Plan:**

Neumeister stated Nass isn't aware of the plan process yet at this point. Coburn stated that if the downtown applies for a grant we need to be careful that they don't specify what they want the grant to be for because the design is not yet approved. We need to know if it's a specific grant or a general grant. Gray-Fow stated that if the grant is for one design instead of for several designs, we end up with a situation where one plan comes forth with it being the only proposal without sufficient opportunity for community input into the design's overall concept.

Coburn stated we need decisions on what to do with trees. She said Dave Saalsa mentioned he would like to have a joint meeting. Neumeister mentioned several new ways of making engineered soil and materials to support sidewalk tree plantings that can allow roots to expand wider than the cities current practices.

**Bird City:**

Neumiester stated he thinks the application for Whitewater to be a bird city has been sent off and we should have notification of approval or not by next meeting.

**Planning board:**

No report this month.

**Park and Rec Board:**

No report this month.

**UFC Minutes – website**

Gray-Fow mentioned that the minutes used to be placed on the city's website, but now its not. Agenda is on, but not minutes since November. Knedler will talk to Matt Amundson about it.

**Staff report:**

Neumeister stated that a storm went through and a few trees had to come down that developed a split. The staff has been watering since June and buckets have been placed on several streets where lots of trees had been planted. Coburn asked Neumeister if the city wants more buckets. She went on to ask if the staff could look for tree guards not up on young trees on Florence, Salisbury, Tratt, and Fraternity streets. Neumeister stated he would check those streets. He went on to mention that each tree takes about five minutes to water. The city has 400 trees to water, Coburn suggested to place a request for citizens to water their trees in the Whitewater Banner.

There is no information yet on trees for the East Gate project.

**Citizen comments:**

None.

**Upcoming Agenda items:**

Coburn would like to invite downtown to our meeting for August or September.

**Move to adjourn:**

Motion by Coburn to adjourn. Second by Knedler.  
Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:  
Andrew Crone