

**City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, February 25, 2014**

Call to order by Gray-Fow

Roll call:

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler, Tom Miller

Members absent: Bev Stone

Staff: Chuck Nass, Matt Amundson

Considerations:

Approval of Agenda:

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

Approval of Minutes for November 26, 2013 meeting

Motion by Knedler. Coburn Seconded.

Change November 25th to 26th.

Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes for January 28, 2014 meeting:

Motion by McCulloch. Coburn Seconded.

Unanimous approval

Downtown Design Steering Committee meeting Report

Gray-Fow, Coburn and Nass were present. Coburn says Brett Mozzetti, UW Madison student in their landscaping program will suggest items: remove curbing on First St., perhaps go to one way traffic and make a respite spot. Plant a "Green Bridge" to connect Second Street to Cravath Lakefront Park. Turn alley behind Studio 84 to an outdoor seating area or "green alley". Put in Splash pad for kids. It will meet again in middle of March. Members can contact him at mozzetti@wisc.edu.

Tom Miller arrives at this point.

Bird City

McCulloch stated that Resolution to pursue Bird City designation will go to City Council meeting on March 4, 2014. It will be read with the Arbor Day notice. We still need to have protection of habitat published or actively publicize the cat ordinance.

Board Reports:

Planning board:

Coburn: nothing to report. They will be talking about ensuring there is enough space around buildings for landscaping between buildings.

Park and Rec Board:

EAB Matt Amundson: How do we reach people who won't go to the EAB web site? Amundson said that Dr. Kidd wants to know what the city can do to let people know that they can remove their ash trees. The city could remove the tree as an example to let people know. Flyers can be posted around town. Kaylea Cau, intern for the Parks and Rec Dept. could work on this.

Park Board is developing short and long-range plans of each park. They are reviewing those plans for a twenty year plan. Forestry Dept. (City Forester and Urban Forestry Commission) will be addressing the forestry-related and "green" landscaping parts of the plans. It will also be involved with developing the five year work plans for the parks.

Matt Amundson leaves.

Gray-Fow remarked that there was not a single tree planting recommendation listed in any of the Park plans.

Coburn wants respite spots designated in the parks for sitting and enjoying the outdoors.

Knedler says this is a way to go step by step for ideas.. Look at things we want to think about and things we want to recommend. Put the proposed park use in the plan first so UFC can work around that.

Motion:

Gray-Fow makes a motion that the proposed park plans for all city parks should come back to the UFC and the City Forester for landscaping review; and that we will recommend the planting of additional trees as needed in every single park.

McCulloch seconds. Unanimous approval

Action Items:

Request from Park Board for

1) Information on EAB public education: EAB Flyer, UFC website (needs to be more easily accessible), Whitewater Banner.

2) Vision and goals of UFC were stated:

The UFC vision and goals includes its active participation in the forestry section of the Parks and Recreation Department's strategic plan related to the inclusion of trees, shrubbery, landscaping and other green issues specific to the city's park, open space, and trail system commensurate with the UFC's mission. (See UFC

Management Policy, Introduction and Mission Statement, passed by the Whitewater Common Council on September 27, 2011).

Cravath Lake Stakeholders meeting

Early April is target month – Knedler asked to bring it to Park Board.

Old Weiler Prairie Restoration

Miller makes a motion and Coburn seconds, to recommend acceptance of the Provisur Technologies’ landscaping proposal that was included in this month’s agenda. Unanimous approval

UFC Participation in Main Street Festival.

Festival could have a Bird House emphasis. Coburn suggests UFC have an information table at the festival. McCulloch says the Festival supports Bird City. It will be on August 2nd. Coburn moves to have UFC participate. Seconded by Gray-Fow. Unanimous approval

Staff Reports:

Trimming trees can now begin this winter after a busy season for using the staff for plowing. Center Quadrant is primary.

Citizen comments:

None.

Upcoming Agenda items:

Next meeting will be 4:30 March 25, 2014.

Move to adjourn:

Motion by Miller to adjourn. Seconded by Knedler.
Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Crone

UFC, Secretary