

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Call to order by Gray-Fow

Roll call:

Members present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen McCulloch, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler, Bev Stone

Absent: Tom Miller, Karen Coburn

Staff:

Brian Neumeister

Considerations:

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by McCulloch to approve the agenda. Second by Knedler.

Gray-Fow corrected Ginny Coburn's speaking date from May 22nd to May 27th, 2014.

Unanimous approval

Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2014 meeting

Motion by McCulloch to approve the minutes , Knedler Seconded.

McCulloch suggested wording change from "large birds" to "large bird puppets, etc."

Unanimous approval

Downtown Design Steering Committee meeting Report

Gray-Fow: Nothing new

Bird City

McCulloch stated that the City will get the application in by July 1st. The remaining sticking points are that we need an ad hoc committee to put together a Bird City Facebook page or website. It should be more than one person who chooses what content and updates should be used. We need to have an effective on-line location to educate public on Bird City.

(Bev Stone arrives at this point)

Gray-Fow said a formal ad hoc committee would be too unwieldy since its meetings would require public notification, agendas and minutes.

She suggested that a couple of members put together a Bird City page, and bring it to the UFC for editing and approval.

Action item 1:

Discussion of whether to have Facebook page or to have a Bird City link to our Urban Forestry webpage for a Bird City page.

Concerns were raised regarding past difficulties in finding the Urban Forestry website, i.e. Departments to Park and Rec to Forestry to UFC.

Motion by Stone to request McCulloch to create a specific Bird City page for the website. Brandon seconded. Gray-Fow, McCulloch, Knedler and Stone yes. Crone no.

Gray-Fow remarked that Coburn had volunteered to help if needed.

Board Reports:

Planning board:

None

Parks and Rec Board:

Knedler stated that the Parks Board has finished the parks and trail outlines review.

It concurred with the UFC request that the UFC shall have input on every specific park's final plan.

He also passed on the UFC recommendation that each Park's Strategic Plan include an item in its Recommendations to plant trees appropriate to the needs of the specific park. (The current draft of the strategic plan did not include anything about planting trees in its Recommendations.) The City Forester and the UFC would work in tandem with Parks and Rec on the specific plantings.

The Parks Board is hoping to get GIS information on the maps. Knedler also stated that the DNR doesn't do anything with the strategic plans other than to acknowledge we have a long range plan for the purposes of applying for grants. It's a living document that can be changed.

Cravath Lake Stakeholders' meeting can wait until after the Downtown Design Committee report.

Rather than having a separate public meeting, the Parks and Rec would prefer that the Cravath Lake Stakeholders' meeting be held at a regular Park Board meeting and be limited mainly to the Downtown stakeholders. Large groups might get one person to talk for ten minutes, perhaps citizens get 3 minutes.

Educational funds for the UFC's participation in the Downtown Festival should go through Nass. Brian Neumeister said Nass told him that the UFC can just send him a list of our needs. Coburn and McCulloch are point people on this.

Action Items:

1. EAB Flyer distribution and publicity; website issues

Neumeister is unaware of a flier to be distributed. Gray-Fow says Parks and Rec intern should have flier ready to post. She will check.

2. Bird City – further actions needed?

Bird City web page information was discussed earlier in this meeting.

UFC will participate at the August 2nd Downtown Festival to promote the Bird City themes. MakerSpace will facilitate the creation of three different types of bird houses with public participation. One is for American Kestrel nests, another is for Blue Bird nests and the third will be Robin perches.

We will need volunteers to help check on houses to help birds get established and pests stay out.

3. UFC recommendations for parks.

The Parks Board has utilized the UFC language in their park plans.

4. Cravath Lake Park Stakeholders' meeting. This may occur in April or May?

5. Update on UFC participation the Downtown Festival on August 2, 2014

This was discussed earlier in the meeting

Staff Reports:

Some tree guards are getting ready to come off.

Planting will occur soon in the next week. Honey Locust near mill pond will be taken down for the East Gate project.

Citizen comments:

None.

Upcoming Agenda items:

Virginia Coburn will speak on volunteering for Habitat Restoration. We will put that on the Whitewater Banner. McCulloch will contact the Banner. Perhaps Maggie Zoellner's (sp) info can be used in Parks and Rec Board plan. McCulloch will forward her email to Knedler.

Next meeting will be at 4:30, May 27, 2014.

Move to adjourn:

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

Respectfully submitted:
Andrew Crone
Secretary, UFC