

City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 4:30 PM
Cravath Lakefront Room, 2nd Floor, City Municipal Building
312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI, 53190

Minutes

Chairperson, Tiiu Gray-Fow called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM

Roll Call:

Members Present: Tiiu Gray-Fow, Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler,
Karen Coburn

Members Absent: Beverly Stone, Tom Miller

City Staff Present: Andy Beckwith

Remarks by outgoing chair, Tiiu Gray-Fow

Nomination of Officers:

Chairperson: Gray-Fow nominated Karen Coburn. 2nd by McCulloch,
passed unanimously.

Vice Chair: McCulloch nominated by Coburn, 2nd by Gray-Fow, passed
unanimously.

Secretary: Knedler nominated for 3 months by Coburn, 2nd by Gray-Fow,
passed unanimously.

Tribute to Tiiu Gray-Fow for her many years of service by Coburn followed by
membership applause.

Considerations:

1. Approval of Agenda: Gray-Fow
Moved by Knedler, 2nd by McCulloch, passed unanimously

2. Approval of Minutes of April 22 2014:
Moved by McCulloch, 2nd by Knedler, passed unanimously

Knedler leaves meeting.

Introduction of Guest Speaker, Ginny Coburn by K. Coburn

G. Coburn spoke about her many years volunteering with forest restoration, the need to
eradicate invasive plantings and the many ways citizens can help. A discussion period followed.

She reported that the library has ordered some of the books she recommended. She left a handout covering highlights of her talk and a reference list for further information.

Considerations continued:

3. Downtown Design Steering Committee meeting. (Gray-Fow)
Gray-Fow reported that everything hinges on the architect's report which will be discussed at the Thursday meeting. Discussion followed concerning a better name for interested citizens that was more inclusive than "stakeholders".

4. Bird City application update. (Nass, McCulloch)
Picture of Tree City Plaque was all that was necessary and would be taken care of.

Board Reports:

Planning and Architecture Landscaping (Coburn)
No report.

Parks and Rec. (Knedler absent)
Commission discussion about UFC's contribution to forestry issues in park planning. Parks that were discussed in Park and Rec March and April meetings will be postponed to UFC June meeting. Input from UFC will be on a park by park basis.
The April parks tour report will be postponed to UFC June meeting.

Action Items:

August 2nd Downtown Celebration: There will be a variety of handouts available, pamphlets on invasive species, bird counting, bird identification, plantings for birds, EAB information, etc. We will be making birdhouse kits. Nass will donate wood.

Tour of Parks for UFC was discussed. Perhaps in July.

Brainstorming on green sustainability issues that may arise in the community which would fall within the UFC's mission. It was suggested that UFC become more aware of the Effigy Mounds Savannah and its balanced ecosystem, perhaps do volunteering. The book, "Miracle Under the Oaks" was suggested for reading.

Staff Reports:

City Forester (Beckwith reported for Nass)
Trees are not being planted as quickly as usual because of repairing water mains. Arbor Day Celebration went well. Coburn congratulated the city crew for their work. Gray-Fow added that some tree guards were damaged or broken and community members should be alerted.

Possible future programs.

It was suggested that we ask Maggie Zoelliner to map the green areas surrounding Whitewater for us.

Park Tour

Citizen comments: None

Adjournment: Gray-Fow moved to adjourn. 2nd by McCulloch. Passed unanimously.