Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission
September 22, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Coburn, chair.

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Teri Smith, Beverly Stone, Brandon Knedler, Anne Zarinnia, Jerry Schoen, Sherry Stanek
Absent: Karen McCulloch
Guests: Denay Trykowski, Ken Kienbaum

Approval of Agenda: Zarinnia moved to approve agenda change to move the Park and Rec. report to the first item. Stanek 2nd, unanimous approval.

Approval of August 2015 minutes: Stanek moved to approve, Stone 2nd, unanimous approval.

Approval of July 2015 minutes: Zarinnia moved to approve, Stanek 2nd, unanimous approval.

Park Board Report: Knedler reported that there was no meeting in August. The board met Sept. 21, 2015 and had a nice presentation of The City Market. Budget was approved.

Denay Trykowski raised concerns regarding lack of shade at City Market. Many people can't handle the sun and that shade is needed and important. Nass said we all agree. Knedler said there are plans to consider removable shade structures for events and that the shade trees will grow over time. Zarinnia supports more shade as well, and feels the significance of this issue is huge. She asked what the budget is for and how much of it is self-sustaining and how much of it comes from the city. Nass offered to explain this so that Knedler could leave. Ken Kienbaum said that there is fabric that is used to shade cows. Knedler will let Matt Amundson know.

Staff Report: Nass brought a map outlining the quadrants of the city. The city is divided into parts for tree planting and maintenance. The third quadrant will be the focus of winter/spring 2015/16. Tree replacement happens every year in all quadrants where needed, first by request in the quadrant that is being worked on, and then the other quadrants. If a tree is removed, it is replaced regardless. Coburn asked about trees at Starin Park that look poor and Nass explained that these are Chinese Elm trees and it is their habit to shed leaves during dry periods in order to deal with the stress. These trees are huge water drinkers. Coburn said she would like Nass to teach us about trees. Nass said he has a list of trees that he will share so that we can share trees of concern with Coburn and check against his list. When a tree is removed it will be replaced the following spring unless owner requests that it not be.

Nass says some trees on Highland will be removed soon due to age and disease. Stone wants to know who is responsible for trees in alleys. Nass will report back. Coburn wants to know if trees in front of Depot can be trimmed up (canopies raised) for security reasons. Nass said it will be done in the winter. Coburn asked whether city is planting native trees and also reported that trimmed invasive knotweed needs to be picked up. Zarinnia said natives should be considered an arboretum. She asked if newly planted trees on Main St. which will be the "walking arboretum" will be native trees. Stanek asked when plaques will be placed by trees on Main St. and Nass said he and UFC would be doing this next spring. Smith brought and distributed a list of native plants and invasives. The list didn't include trees and shrubs. Denay Trykowski said that those are very important. Smith encouraged us to look to native plants when we plant around our homes. Zarinnia will put the list on the website.

Bird City?Bird Talk: The Swift Tower Committee raised $2,500 up to this point! Scott Eckert will be building it. Nass and Coburn chose the location at Cravath Park.

Main Street Festival: Could have been more activities for kids. The ones there were were off on Second Street and Coburn and Stanek felt they would have been better used if they had been part of the Main St. group of booths. Coburn met an attendee who is a conservationist and teaches at Carroll College. He offered an intern for spring semester to work with UFC. Stanek and Coburn had tables at the festival with information about Bird City, safety for birds, the Swift Tower Project effort, and activities for kids. They were able to make Flappy Birds, Bird Masks and also, with Ginny Coburn, origami birds! The leftover supplies for bird masks were given to Brienne Brown to be used at the City Market and she will also display a Bird City sign.
Denay Trykowski reported about a gathering she attended with stuffed/preserved birds that kids could look at and color and learn their markings at Fort High School where there is a bird museum. Could we do this as a winter program?
Artrageous Bird Show - will happen yearly at the CAC according to Linda Long. Coburn put up a Chimney Swift tower display at this year's show.
Schoen reported that he has served on BRAW, Bluebird Restoration in Wisconsin and will be putting up the bluebird houses from last years' Main St. Festival. Coburn said that some could (via Paul Majors) be put up at the high school. Schoen said they could go along railroad tracks and that they must be checked for male sparrows. Nass said that some could be put up at the new detention ponds.

Website: Zarinnia reported that she continues to have problems with our website. She has talked to the IT guy, Tim Nobeling. She would to be educating the community with all that we do, but that this is very very difficult with the city's current program. She said that Rec Desk works really well for Parks & Rec but it is not working for what we are trying to do. We need to get the website more user friendly and functional.

Plan Board Report: Stanek reported that the commission continues to work with developers to limit impervious surfaces and that Neighborhood Services Director Christine Munz-Pritchard is continuing to work with PlanCommission and Council to get the ordinance regarding R2-A in

place. Apparently when the Zoning Rewrite happened, this category was not updated which makes it very difficult to approve projects because there is so much ambiguity. Stanek suggested that community members need to contact their representatives to let them know that our neighborhoods need to be preserved.

Effigy Mounds: There is an event scheduled at the Depot on October 11 on early religion and the mounds withh a guided tour of the mounds following.

Zarinnia moved to adjourn the meeting, Stone 2nd, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary