

**City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission
May 22, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order: 4:32 p.m.

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Anne Zarinnia, Jerry Schoen, Rose Mary Leaver, Karen McCulloch,
Sherry Stanek
Absent: Brandon Knedler

Staff: Brian Neumeister

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Stanek, seconded by McCulloch, unanimously approved

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve by Zarinnia, seconded by Leaver, unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Knedler absent, Coburn asked members whether UFC earnings should be kept in city budgeted account for UFC or in the account made up of donated funds. Members decided that earned funds should be kept in account with donated funds.

Staff Report: Storm, storm, storm! Neumeister reported that spring tree planting was going very well, but that everything except working on damaged trees from the huge storm on May 17th has had to be put on hold until damaged trees and fallen branches have been cleaned up. Damage to trees all over the city was huge, including many damaged trees at city parks. Crews have been working diligently to get damaged trees cleared. There will be no chipping charge for residents who pile branches at the street for removal. (Normally there is a charge after the first 15 minutes of chipping by city crews.) 160 trees will be planted this year, there are about 30 left to plant.

The Arbor Day presentation and tree planting in honor of Tiu Gray Fow's many years of service to the city and its trees was held on May 3rd at Cravath Lakefront Park. An oak tree was planted and a plaque was placed at its base thanking her for her service and was very much appreciated by her. Coburn asked Neumeister if native trees could be planted at Clay Street Nature Park and he said that, yes, he thought two oak trees will be planted there. Coburn asked whether mulching of the path at Walton Oaks was a possibility, especially in the back of the park where the ground is very wet. Normally the path up to the marble bench has been done, and the path through the park is mowed. Coburn pointed out that if the path was mulched, mowing wouldn't be required and if it was thickly applied in the back, it might be possible to walk the whole path even when it's wet in that area. Neumeister will talk to Nass about this.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Discussion was held on possible hours for our International Migratory Bird Day event on August 8. McCulloch suggested 3:30 - 7 pm since this is the time that City Market takes place and we want to capture Market attendees. Coburn will reserve the community building at Cravath from 10 am so that participants can get in there to set up for the event.

Scott Weberpahl has agreed to put together a powerpoint presentation featuring 20 - 25 birds that migrate through Wisconsin that will be playing during the event. Coburn said it would be nice to have the songs of those birds included and Schoen said that he has a CD with many bird songs on it that he would lend for the event. Zarinnia suggested that we set a time to go through the Lakefront building ahead of the event. Coburn said that raffle ads will be handed out prior to and at the event. McCulloch made a sample hummingbird feeder that could be made at the event, or made ahead of time and included as raffle items. Leaver brought sample coloring sheets for kids and Bird Bingo game sheets. Coburn said that IMBD site has gifts that could be purchased inexpensively that could be handed out such as bracelets that could be handed out to attendees. Alt has previously suggested that gummy worms could be exchanged with children who bring their ticket to the building and Stanek suggested painting bird footprints on the sidewalk from the City Market to the IMBD event. Coburn suggested temporary bird tattoos as a fun prize for children and possibly journals for children to record birds that they see. If hummingbird feeders are made at the event, should we charge for them and, if so, how much? Or should we ask for a donation? There was discussion pro and con and will be determined at a later meeting. Coburn said that volunteers will be needed and encouraged each UFC member to bring one person with them? Leaver needs to find magnet sheets to print puzzles on, the Wingspan Banner is proceeding, material for mural is has been procured, Studio 84 will be making a flapping bird project and may have girl scouts to help. Zarinnia suggested that we have maps showing the migration paths of Wisconsin birds on display so that people can see where birds begin and end their migrations. Coburn suggested that we visit inaturalist.org for plant ID activity. Ginny Coburn and Marriette Nowak will be there to share their knowledge.

The Whitewater Arts Alliance is collaborating with UFC on the 2018 Bird of The Year so we need to choose this bird so that we can let them know. Should we look at most threatened? Most common around town? Coburn will contact members on this.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Would like to tie into IMBD event because of the importance of oaks as habitat, etc.

Plan Board: No report

Park Board: No report

Motion to Adjourn: Zarinnia moved to adjourn, McCulloch seconded, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: June 26, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Stanek, Secretary