

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2017

Call to Order: 4:49 p.m.

Note: Our June meeting was very graciously held at the rural home of Nick and Megan Alt with a potluck. All those who were able were invited to join a tour afterward of their property with an emphasis on their work to eliminate invasives there and to restore the property to a native state. Thank you to Nick and Megan for hosting a very nice gathering!

Roll Call: Karen Coburn, Karen McCulloch, Brandon Knedler, Rose Mary Leaver, Jerry Schoen, Nick Alt, Sherry Stanek

Absent: Anne Zarinnia, Chuck Nass **Guest:** Elizabeth Hoffman

Approval of Agenda: McCulloch moved approval, Knedler seconded, Unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: McCulloch moved approval, Leaver seconded, Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$63 earned from sale of Nick's honey and deposited to Commercial Bank account. Alt and Stanek haven't been reimbursed for mileage to Oshkosh conference, Coburn will check this out. Bills for supplies have been submitted to Chuck for reimbursement from City funds. Excellent Bird Fair poster donated by Joel Houkom and Ginny Coburn.

Staff Report: Nass couldn't attend. Stanek reported that the area in front of the Senior Center at Starin Park will have cuts in it that will allow small trees and shrubs to be planted there. The bike rack will still be there, but will be on one side instead of using the entire concrete pad. This will add some green space to that area.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Upcoming Bird Fair was discussed. Leaver will check with schools to see if tarps/drop cloths are available to borrow to protect the floors at Cravath Community Building where mural will be painted. Leaver and others are continuing their work on the Wingspan Banner. Alt is working on a bean bag matching/throwing game for the Fair that will have people throwing "bird" bags into the corresponding hole for that bird to migrate. Stanek is working on the cutout Snowy Owl for people to take their pictures with their face as the owl. Zarinnia is working on migration maps for the White

Pelican, American Robin and Sandhill Crane, birds that migrate to or through Whitewater. Elizabeth Hoffman, UW Sustainability Intern, is working on a flyer describing Walton Oaks Park for distribution at Bird Fair. Kim Adams is working with university students for a project for the Bird Fair. Schoen is getting signposts together for the day of the Fair and also brought his Snowy Owl wood carving to meeting and will display it at the Fair. Bird Fair Posters are being put up all around town. McCulloch is working on getting advertisements on the Whitewater Banner, Daily Union, Janesville Gazette and possibly a radio interview prior to the event on August 8. Everything is moving along.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Elizabeth Hoffman is working on a paper outlining how and when a controlled burn should be done at Walton Oaks. There was discussion of a plant survey. Also Hoffman has been working with adjacent homeowner, Kim Adams, about the birds at Walton Oaks.

Coburn reported that more native plants will be planted at the Clay Street Nature Park. These will be purchased from city account. McCulloch said that the Janesville Farmer's Market has a native plant guy on Saturdays and more information can be gotten at Inaturalist.org.

Plan Board Report: Stanek reported that she did a small presentation on the importance of keeping grass clippings out of the streets so that they don't end up in our lakes via the storm sewers. This is a huge contributing problem to the condition of Cravath and Trippe lakes. There are ordinances in the Municipal Code that state that clippings cannot be put into the street, we need better enforcement. She also talked about the importance of making sure people are not expanding their driveways with gravel, thereby reducing the pervious surface available to absorb stormwater.

Park & Recreation Board Report: Meeting delayed.

Announcements: None

Adjournment: Leaver moved to adjourn, McCulloch seconded, unanimously approved.

Next Meeting: July 24, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,
Sherry Stanek, Secretary