

City of Whitewater
Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Call to order by Chairperson, Tiiu Gray-Fow.

Members present: Karen McCulloch, Karen Coburn, Andrew Crone, Brandon Knedler,
Jay Craggs

City staff present: Matt Amundson, Andy Beckman, Brian Neumeister

Guest expert: Richard Ehrenberg

Citizen: Roy Nosek

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Coburn, second by Crone: Unanimous approval.

Minutes of January 24, 2012 meeting: Motion by McCulloch to approve, second by Knedler: Unanimous approval.

Plan and Architectural Review Board Report: (Coburn)

Coburn reported that a plan for an apartment complex off Florence and Tratt had come before the board. The builders needed to remove one tree, but would replace it. They will be adding new trees on the terrace.

UFC discussed criteria for tree removal and need to have city staff clarify with builders what trees should be protected and oversee tree removal prior to construction or demolition. City staff will mark and fence trees to be protected.

Park and Recreation Board Report: (Knedler)

Milwaukee St. Pedestrian Safety Island planting recommendation (i.e. to have plantings vs. stamped concrete islands) from Parks and Recreation Board) was received by City Council. There were issues of employee and pedestrian safety. Any plantings should be impervious to salt. The Council had a tie vote and the item will return to next month's agenda.

Citizen comments:

Roy Nosek spoke in favor of having trees included in boulevard plantings. He used Starin Rd as an example. Discussion led to the commission agreeing once again that it favored plantings over stamped concrete. It was thought that trees could always be added if appropriate in terms of feasibility or safety.

Neumeister:

Reported that 13 trees on Milwaukee St. may be lost due to the construction but an additional 6 or more trees may be saveable as a result of the change in sidewalk width. Gray-Fow cautioned that tree protective guards should be in place before construction

Ehrenberg:

Presented an overview of Native trees and their role in preserving our insect, bird, and animal population.

Crone: Should the UFC create a recommended list that supports this goal?
Neumeister recommended that a list be made for citizens as well.
Gray-Fow suggested posting the list on Parks and Recreation Board website.
Crone suggested that nurseries might be notified of our interest, which in turn may push other communities to do the same.
Amundson: The list could be put on the city website

Crone moved that the UFC recommend that the City Council announce a citywide goal to include Native species in plantings. Jay Craggs seconded. Approved unanimously. The UFC will work on a proposed statement at the next meeting.

McCulloch suggested that we invite an ornithologist to speak at one of our meetings. Also briefly summarized Bird City designation process. Will be discussed at next meeting.

Nosek discussed terrace trees?

Commission reserved the April meeting for tree species discussion.

Neumeister reported that 16 trees on N. Prince would be pruned, some removed. Many ash and a few old crabs would be removed. The street is being widened for utilities. This would occur in mid May. University will plant new trees on its terrace.

It was moved that agenda items, 11-15, should be moved to the March meeting. Crone asked that #15 be reworded to clarify that it is for discussion only. The intent is not to affect standards which are already in place.

Crone moved that the meeting adjourn. Jay Craggs seconded. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen McCulloch
Karen Coburn