

2.52.090 - Urban forestry commission.

(1)

Creation and Membership. The urban forestry commission is hereby established as a permanent committee of the park and recreation board. There shall be seven members on the Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission. Membership shall be as follows:

(a)

Five citizen members shall be appointed under the procedures set forth in Whitewater Municipal Code, [Chapter 2.12](#), each serving three-year terms, staggered annually.

(b)

One member of the plan and architectural review commission shall be appointed to the Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission.

(c)

One member of the park and recreation board shall be appointed to the urban forestry commission.

(d)

The city forester or his/her designee shall serve as the nonvoting staff liaison to the Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission.

(2)

Powers and Duties. The urban forestry commission shall:

(a)

Make recommendations to the city forester and park and recreation board concerning the care of all trees and shrubs planted in the rights-of-way of all streets or highways, or in any park or other public areas of the city;

(b)

Prepare, and recommend for adoption by the park and recreation board and the city council, an urban forestry management plan, which shall include provisions for the planting, maintenance and protection of all public trees and shrubs, and make recommendations for amendments thereto as the urban forestry commission shall determine appropriate from time to time. The urban forestry management plan may contain any or all of the following elements:

1.

Street Tree and Shrub Planting Plan. A proposed plan for the orderly and systematic planting of new or replacement trees and shrubs in the terraces or boulevards along city streets in a manner which minimizes conflicts between trees and shrubs and other public use of streets, facilitates care of the trees and shrubs, and enhances the aesthetics of the city streetscapes. The plan shall designate the appropriate species of tree(s) and shrub(s) for each street segment and shall take into consideration the mature size and requirements of the species, the width of the terrace or boulevard, depth of building setbacks, location of street lights, safety signals and signs, the location of overhead or underground public utility facilities, the location of existing desirable trees and any other relevant site factors.

2.

Tree and Shrub Maintenance. Plans for the maintenance of trees and shrubs located in public places to preserve the function or beauty of such public places in accordance with the applicable city maintenance standards. The plan shall provide plans for the trimming, removal, pruning, spraying, fertilizing or other treatment of any tree or shrub on any public

place when necessary or appropriate to promote the general welfare, improve the city's appearance or alleviate any unsafe condition.

(c)

Serve in an advisory capacity to the city council on all issues relating to trees and shrubs located within street right-of-ways, parks, and other public places in the city; and to any other matter involving trees and shrubs that affect, or may affect, public areas;

(d)

Prepare and maintain an inventory of trees and shrubs located in public areas within the city and an inventory of areas along streets where street trees cannot be planted due to site limiting factors;

(e)

Prepare and recommend for adoption by the park and recreation board and the city council rules and regulations for the protection and maintenance of trees and shrubs located on public property, and to protect the public health, safety and welfare against dangers resulting from any trees and shrubs, including any regulations deemed necessary to protect against injury or damage caused by the spread of disease, insects or fungus;

(f)

Identify and maintain a list of tree and shrub species deemed to be nuisances due to their propensity to harbor pests or transmit diseases which endanger other trees or shrubs or the public health, safety and welfare;

(g)

Subject to the approval of the city manager, apply for county, state, federal and private grant funds for the city's urban forestry program;

(h)

Recommend such persons or firms who are qualified in urban forestry to assist with the city's urban forestry program;

(i)

Provide a forum for and encourage public comments on city tree and shrub projects and the urban forestry program;

(j)

Encourage public participation in urban forestry practices and projects within the city and the surrounding extraterritorial area;

(k)

Conduct an Arbor Day observance each year;

(l)

Inform and educate city residents about the care of natural areas in their neighborhoods;

(m)

Undertake programs for education of the public with regard to the benefits of urban trees, the proper selection, planting and care of urban trees and other matters relating to urban forestry as it deems appropriate;

(n)

Maintain the "Tree City USA" status of the city;

(o)

Provide, upon request, on such terms and conditions as determined by the requesting body, plan review and technical assistance to the planning and zoning commission and any other board, committee or commission of the city and provide

technical advice and assistance with respect to matters affecting the urban forest to the public;

(p)

Provide at each park and recreation board meeting a report of the commission's activities since its last report to the board;

(q)

The park and recreation board shall receive and review all reports, whether written or oral, provided to them by the urban forestry commission.

(3)

Limitation on powers.

(a)

The urban forestry commission shall not have any power to direct or manage any city employee, officer, or agent in their day-to-day work activities.

(Ord. No. 1752A, § 1, 12-15-2009)