

City of Whitewater Urban Forestry Commission

July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Community Room - 2nd Floor - 4:30 p.m. and Virtual

312 W. Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190

Roll Call. Present: Stanek, Alt, Chandler, Leaver, Stone, Beckman, Taylor. Absent: Tevis. Visitor: Steve Ryan

Hearing of Citizens Comments: None

Approval of Agenda: Taylor/Stone. Approved.

Approval of June 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Stone/Chandler. Approved

Treasurer's Report: (Leaver) Reimbursements for tree sale and bird conference expenses are being processed for Chandler, Neis and Stanek. \$1,049 remains in UFC treasury.

Staff Report: (Beckman) Stump grinding update. Watering in Starin Park continuously. The landmark territorial tree at Franklin and Main is quickly declining and branches are creating a hazard. The city will contract for the tree's removal with the timing being dependent on the contractor, The Landmarks Commission has suggested an "Oaktober" ceremony. A motion to reclaim the large sections of the oak for use/display in Starin Park (Alt/Stone) passed unanimously. Neither transportation nor contamination will be issues. Possibly replace the tree with planting from sister tree across the street.

Review landscape plans for Aldi: Remove pear for serviceberry. Remove Spiraeas for Spiraea tomentosa and/or dwarf honeysuckle. Remove Stella Doro lilies for native prairie plants such as wild senna, purple coneflower, obedient plant, New Jersey tea and/or St. Johns wort.

Arboretum Update: (Stanek); Interpretive signage for Welcome Center ordered, deposit paid and they should arrive by end of August. Tree inventory is progressing with about 75% completed with new plantings as required by DNR grant. The education component of the grant will be satisfied with the new signage and only need to complete

the tree inventory, remove remaining dead trees and trim others to meet the grant requirements. Not much weeding has been needed due to the drought but Stanek sprayed and weeded as necessary.

Tree City/Tree Talk: Walton Oaks Park neighbors infringed on oaks causing damage but city staff has restored the planting area and the trees are doing better. A split rail fence was installed to demark the park boundary. Burning and spaying completed with good progress by Midwest Prairie.

Bird City/Bird Talk: Purple Martin nests update (Chandler); 45 Martins fledged at Minneiska, 25-30 fledged at Clay St, 24 eggs were counted at Prairie Village but no Martin activity seen at Starin Park.

“Swift Night Out” possibilities (Stanek): at Middle School brick chimney. Accurate counting is difficult but numbers have clearly dropped. Stanek to notify UFC when the next session(s) will take place to allow those who can to attend.

Items For Future Discussion: 1) Milkweed protection/planting. 2) Protection of oaks from library expansion.

Adjournment: Alt/Stone. 5:45 pm.

Next Meeting: August 28, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Taylor, Secretary