



Urban Forestry Commission Meeting
Monday, August 26, 2024 – 5:30 PM
Cravath Lakefront Room
312 W. Whitewater Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Bill Chandler, Nick Alt, Brienne Brown, Carol McCormick

Absent: Ryan Tevis

Staff: Andrew Beckman, Kevin Boehm

Guests: Josh Kapfer

Meeting called to order at 4:34 by Alt

Approval of Agenda

Moved to approve by McCormick, Seconded by Brown. Ayes: Chandler, Alt, McCormick, Brown. Nays: None.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2024

Motioned by Chandler, seconded by McCormick to approve. Ayes: Chandler, Brown, Alt, McCormick. Nays: None

Hearing of Citizen Comments

Boehm reminded the commission to not reply all to emails as this is considered a walking quorum and is subject to open records. These are in violation of the City transparency ordinance and Wisconsin state statutes. Additional training will be required of all boards and commissions moving forward.

Treasurer's Report

Boehm informed the commission that Rosemary Leaver has resigned her position on the commission and therefore a new Treasurer must be elected.

Election of New Treasurer

Motioned by McCormick to table the discussion of treasurer until the commission fills all vacancies. Seconded by Brown. Ayes: Alt, Brown, Chandler, McCormick. Nays: None.

Staff Report

2. Report regarding 2024 EAB Treatment.

City staff have treated 181 Ash trees throughout the community, using 5,740 mils or 12 quarts of material. Alt asked for a cost. Beckman stated he did not have the numbers but they have purchased a new gun that speeds up the process and uses less treatment material. He stated an estimate of \$12,000 and that number will go down in the future due to not having to purchase the gun. Alt stated that there is a rolling cost on that particular tree in town and if we reduce our inventory the cost will be reduced. Beckman stated the city is already invested in these trees after several years of treatment. He doesn't want to remove trees just to remove them since they offer a diversity to the urban canopy and there is an Emerald Ash Borer plan in place approved by the City Council that he is obligated to follow.

Crews continue to trim street trees throughout the community. Staff have been watering newly planted trees and have been spraying weeds in some of the beds in the Arboretum. Alt asked if the City was going to mulch the beds, it was mentioned at the last meeting that the City would provide the mulch and the group overseeing the arboretum would be installing the mulch.

Tree City

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of amount of money to spend on trees.

Boehm gave an update that he met with the Finance Department to discuss the request from the UFC to have the money earned from the Tree Sale to be placed into its own account. Finance would like to know the following information. What bank is the account located at, what is the associated FEIN or SSN. He informed the commission that the account needs to be audited by the city auditors every year since the commission is essentially a branch of the city government therefore all monies need to be accounted for in the same fashion.

Boehm stated that the City will release the funds from the Tree Sale to the UFC if that is what they want, however, the City will not fund the upfront costs of the Tree Sale. Boehm will give a full update on Forestry Budget and Funds at the September meeting.

4. Upkeep of the Arboretum

Alt created a list but doesn't have it with him. He went over some of the things he sees necessary and who would be responsible.

- a. Descriptions of the tasks that need to be completed.**
- b. What part of this is to be cared for by the City.**
- c. What part is to be cared for by a group of volunteers created for this purpose.**
- d. Who is interested in developing a group of volunteers to care for the arboretum?**

Alt asked for volunteers to develop a group of volunteers. Brown said she could get it started by reaching out to the Starin Park Neighborhood and the High School. It was recommended to reach out to Wes Everline and the University. Brown asked for a bullet point list of items that need to be done and it would make it easier to find help.

- e. **Who would like to develop tasks that need to be completed by the Arboretum care coalitions/Friends of Starin Park Arboretum?**
- f. **How is funding going to be secured on a continual basis for the Arboretum at Starin Park?**

Alt put together a list of potential funds, but again doesn't have it. He asked for feedback. There was a general discussion of possible funding ideas, no decisions were made.

Bird City

- 5. **Discuss and possible action on placing additional Purple Martin Houses in the Community.**

Alt stated the Park Board donated \$500 the last time a house was purchased and would like to ask the board for an additional contribution

- 6. **Discussion and possible approval of letter to be dispersed/delivered to the residents near Skyway Park in the Park Crest residential subdivision for the purpose of adding a Purple Martin Bird House to this neighborhood.**

Alt provided a letter to the community asking for donations towards the purchase of a Purple Martin house in the Park Crest neighborhood. Boehm will clean up the letter. An additional Purple Martin house is needed at the Trippe Lake location, an additional letter will be sent to residents around that neighborhood similar to the Park Crest request.

Future Agenda Items

- a. Other grants availability and desire to pursue
- b. Update the tree, plants, shrubs, grasses for landscaping plans
- c. Brochure about tree planting in the city
- d. Century Tree use of wood having a special meeting with the Landmarks Commission.

Adjournment

- e. Moved to adjourn by McCormick, seconded by Chandler. Adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Boehm

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