

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
February 24, 2016

Members Present: , Jansen Litter, Tim Timberman, Bobbi Strangfeld, Gail Bason, Alex Teass, John Kutney, Todd Wales and Mike Lippert (Staff Rep.)

Others Present: Brad Bonham

Minutes of December 2, 2015

Board voted to approve the minutes as written.

Reports from Subcommittees

Street Trees: Mike confirmed the board's "Do not plant" list was followed in ordering street trees this spring.

Public Planting: Gail and Corrie have drawn up designs for public plantings as requested by Terry. Mike agreed to follow-up with Terry on status of project.

Green Areas Trust: The subcommittee met and began developing criteria for accepting property. Environmental Stewardship will also review. When "draft" report is complete, subcommittee will forward to members prior to monthly meeting.

Old Business

Annual Report: Jansen is aiming to present the UF&BC report to city council in April. John asked that each member forward a photo to him with years of service on the board. Mike will research the number of beautification nominations received in 2015.

Young Tree Pruning Workshop: Set for Friday morning 8 am-noon. We anticipate around 20 participants.

Arbor Day Preparation: Arbor Day is on April 29. Currently, Wyoming has no formal plans. There was discussion regarding improving community participation as the event has recently been focused on the schools. Recent attendance has been good, but could be better. May want to discuss ideas with Wendi on Friday.

Homeowner Workshops: Bobbi presented a couple of plans to the board to improve community education. The first involved bringing in a panel of experts to answer homeowner questions regarding their landscapes. Potential dates include March 12, March 19 and April 9. The second involved scheduling a tree/landscape walk at Stearns Woods this spring. Bobbi will pursue the first plan and begin contacting the experts. Possible locations noted were council chambers and the Middle School (\$50 rental). The Civic Center is unavailable.

Arboretum Plans: Can Stearns Woods become an arboretum? Bobbi mentioned Spring Grove Cemetery as an example. Work would include expanding the current plantings with a diverse selection of

good quality native trees. Could these trees be included in a grant project? Another possibility is to think of Wyoming's urban forest as an arboretum and develop a map of species. More discussion required.

Civic Center: City pursued grant for first floor men's restroom and lobby improvements for \$100,000+. Todd and John were included in meeting with SFA architects and others to discuss improvements. Todd will develop conceptual front patio plan for budgeting and present to board at next meeting. It was noted that there may be other beautification opportunities (tree/plant replacement) there. Board voted to approve pursuit of additional beautification ideas for recommendation to city.

New Business

How Do We Know We Are Improving the Quality of Life in These Areas for the City of Wyoming and its Residents: John discussed an idea to obtain an email address (@wyomingohio.gov) for the Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission. This would make it easier to manage RSVP's for events and provide more opportunity to interact with residents. Board voted approval for John to move forward with pursuing board email address.

Parking Lot: Jansen noted that the following three projects will be placed on hold and taken off future agendas pending new information: Civic Center (accept for Todd's patio work), Village Green, and 720 Oak.

Process: There was discussion on improving coordination between the board and the city. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mike Lippert