

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
January 27, 2016

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

Others Present: Brad Bonham

Minutes of December 2, 2015

Alex moved and Gail seconded approval. All approved.

Reports from Subcommittees

Street Trees: No new activity, Mike said the trees will be ordered in the next week or two. The City followed the commission's recommendations regarding trees that should be avoided.

Public Planting: Gail and Corrie have drawn up some designs for public plantings as requested by Terry. Input welcome.

Green Areas Trust: Has not met, but there are two tasks- one is to look at the criteria for accepting properties, the other is to look at the criteria for projects proposed for properties. Gail, Brad, Jansen and anyone else interested will be meeting about this. Grant awarded for Stearns Woods. Awaiting notice of award on second grant TBA this spring.

Village Green: Public Works is planning to rework the landscaping along Wyoming Avenue, rework the pavers and paint the gazebo in 2016. No additional Village Green work is planned in 2016. Tentatively, the city is planning to match donations up to \$10,000/year for the next couple of years. Like this year, the match may be "in kind" work. Nothing new to report about fundraising and next steps. Ethan mentioned that he is interested in the project "packages" from a fundraising aspect. Bobbi mentioned that the Farmer's Market people have informally indicated that a drinking fountain is their top pick for an item to install first.

Civic Center: Regarding the Civic Center, Mike noted that city council approved Lynn's referral of the Civic Center project's next steps to different commissions including Economic Development, Promote Wyoming, Recreation Commission, and UFBC. UFBC was tasked with improving the front patio space, landscaping, back patio and garden. John and Todd suggested that input from other commissions, administration (budget), and interested parties may be necessary in developing a good Civic Center site plan. For example, the Recreation Commission may come up with an idea that affects the site plan.

Todd asked Mike if he could work with Lynn in setting up a Civic Center Kick-off meeting - and invite other interested parties to attend to provide direction and get the ball rolling towards implementing a master site plan.

Calendar of Events: Next up is Arbor Day, April 29. Place this on the agenda for next month to plan this event. John will send electronic copy of Arbor Day celebration planning guide.

Spring Plant Sale: Discussion occurred about how/if to accomplish this: jointly with Environmental Stewardship Commission or simply from Environmental Stewardship Commission? Bobbi thinks we

should have one sale a year in the fall and that out spring focus should on educating people about trees, shrubs, groundcovers, etc. Bobbi proposed offering only the fall sale, John seconded, Voted and the motion carried.

Annual Report: Jansen is working on this, will likely have a draft next month for review.

New Business:

Young tree structural pruning workshop Friday, February 26, 8:00-12:00 at Council Chambers and outside to prune young trees. ISA certified arborists will receive CEU's.

John has been privately promoting tree-related items on NextDoor. Has recently struck up a conversation with a Wyoming homeowner who is interested in paying the difference for larger trees to be planted as replacements for his recently removed street trees. Issues such as this are usually forwarded to Terry Huxel. However, this request will likely be denied as the city doesn't have the equipment to plant larger trees. Brad will also send a link to John to pass along about how smaller trees become established more quickly and grow faster than larger trees.

John's question about the state of street trees, received little response from the Commission. Please email John with any concerns or suggestions.

Some suggestions brought up at the meeting include taking better care of young trees and recommending tree experience for new workers. John will compile ideas to present to public works about adopting a "Standard Operating Procedure" for young tree installation/maintenance.

Arbor Day Holiday Cards: Were well-received, and the feeling is we should do this again. Revisit this as the holidays come around.

Goals and Objectives for 2016Relative to our missions if we were together in January 2017 and we were very reflective on the year that had just passed what would have happened this year that we could have said, "We really made a difference this year?" What is one thing that you want to see happen in 2016 to help move our community forward?

Bobbi: Wyoming resident approached Bobbi about developing a plan for an arboretum in Wyoming, with a map, and basically suggesting our whole town is an arboretum. Stearns Woods was brought up as a possible location to plant some unique arboretum-quality trees.

Also, in conjunction with fall tree sale and fall festival, Bobbi suggested putting together a series of homeowner workshops about honeysuckle, invasives, how to plant trees, deer resistant varieties, the yearlong cycle of landscape maintenance.

Mike will investigate status of replacement of commissioner and council representative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Corrie Carswell