

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**February 22, 2023 7:00 pm**

Members Present: Bobbi Strangfeld, Gail Bason, Thayne Bedenkop, Jerome Guest, Andrea Betts, Daniele Eller, Sean Creighton, Flemming Holm, Todd Wales, Jodi Woffington and Mike Lippert (Staff Representative).

Minutes of January 25, 2023

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Stearns Woods Vision – Flemming presented a new two-page document entitled, “Stearns Woods Objectives and Strategies”. The document set 3 objectives for Stearns Woods: removal of invasives, introduction of native species, and city coordination for long-term maintenance. Strategies, metrics and needed resources were outlined. It is anticipated a separate work plan will ultimately be created. UFBC will review budgetary needs going forward. Mike will check how the current \$500 green area budget is utilized to measure its adequacy. UFBC also plans to continue to pursue grants through Taking Root and other organizations. Commission members were asked to review the document further. It is anticipated UFBC will ultimately present the plan to city council and make budgetary requests, if any, before the city’s budget process is finalized annually in the late summer timeframe. 2023 work needs to be outlined and will be somewhat dependent on whether UFBC can obtain a Taking Root mini-grant.

GIS Update of Stearns Woods – So far, the GIS mapping group (5 people) has met three times at Stearns Woods. They plan to continue surveying (approximately weekly) going forward. Their work will help develop metrics for the Stearns Woods work plan, help with the pursuit of grants, and help with monitoring the condition of the Woods (i.e. deer damage, trash, etc.). The commission would like the mapping application reviewed at the next monthly UFBC meeting.

Stearns Woods Wildflower walks – Three dates have been set up for wildflower walks this Spring. The first date is March 26 with 2 tours planned (10 AM and noon). Two more walks are scheduled for April. The events will be announced on the city newsletter and website.

Stearns Woods Mini-grant update – UFBC is assisting the City in submitting another Taking Root grant in 2023. Submittals for Spring mini-grants are due in March with plantings scheduled for fall. Bobbi/Sean will prepare.

Arbor Day 2023: - April 28 is the official Arbor Day nationally in the USA. Bobbi recommended that UFBC meet with Adam Beard, the Vermont contact before spring break in late March. It is anticipated the programming to be similar to the past with a scavenger hunt and mayor proclamation. Flemming agreed to help with input from Sean, who orchestrated this event in the past. Additional volunteers will likely be necessary for the event.

UFBC Annual Report to Council – UFBC plans to present the annual report at the April City Council meeting. Andrea and Bobbi will work on the powerpoint preparation. UFBC will likely need a presenter.

Tree City USA Luncheon – This year’s celebration is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023. So far, Bobbi, Danielle, and Thayne are planning to attend. We may want to ask the mayor as well.

New Business:

Tree List: - The Commission reviewed the street tree list prepared by the city. Initially, there was some concern over Osage Orange, Kentucky Coffeetree, and Dawn Redwood. After further review, the commission generally supported the document.

Miscellaneous: Gail will review the condition of recent plantings at the Recreation Center. Some new plantings may be required.

Next meeting will be March 22, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert