

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
April 26, 2023 7:00 pm

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

Minutes of March 22, 2023

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Arbor Day 2023 – Flemming verified all trees included in the scavenger hunt are still living. Flemming and Jerome will set-up early for the hunt. For the agenda, Flemming plans to provide an introduction to Arbor Day and then introduce Mayor Monich for the proclamation before the scavenger hunt is described and carried out. This will be the last activity of the day for students and the program is open to all classes at Vermont. Rain could make the scavenger hunt difficult, so it was suggested to try the hunt inside the gym. Flemming will verify the alternate rain activities with Adam Beard. All those involved should in Arbor Day should arrive by 2:00-2:15 to sign in.

Stearns Woods Wildflower Walks – Wildflower walks occurred over three weekends with two walks taking place each weekend. 60 people attended the walks and they were well received. We even received a \$10 donation! Although people were encouraged to sign-up in advance, we did have several sign-ups the day of the event. Weather was good for all walks. 10-15 wildflowers were noted. Bobbi expressed appreciation for all UFBC volunteers.

Stearns Woods Clean-Up Schedule – Stearns Woods clean-ups are scheduled for the next couple of weekends. Volunteers are encouraged to arrive at 9 AM at the Oliver Road entrance with snips, shovels and gloves. Invasive removal will be the major focus with a concentration on vines and honeysuckle. Sean commented that he found Japanese Knotweed growing there – another invasive which needs to be removed. Herbicide use was discussed and can only be applied under the direction of a certified applicator (Thayne Bedenkop is certified). Some herbicide may be able to be obtained from the city. Clean-up of debris should be coordinated with Wyoming Public Works.

Stearns Woods Mini-grant update – Sean submitted the latest UFBC mini-grant application to Taking Root. It is anticipated the \$500 grants will be awarded later this summer for fall 2023 planting.

Tree City USA Banquet: - Daniele provided a summary of the event last week in Fairfield. Speakers discussed Fairfield Parks, sustainability, and invasive tree history – Callery Pears mostly. Boxed lunches were provided and awards distributed. Daniele, Thayne, Mike and Emily Dengler (city communication Person) attended. Emily took notes on how to speed up and improve the event when Wyoming hosts (hopefully in 2025).

UFBC Annual Report to Council – Bobbi and Jerome presented the annual report to City council, which included a powerpoint largely prepared by Andrea. It was well received. UFBC is currently the only volunteer commission which presents annually to council.

New Business:

Bonham Branch Library Landscape Changes – Tom Gardner of the library is working with Bayer Becker Engineers to improve the landscaping at the library. Tom presented an overview of ideas to the commission including some plant removals to make the library entrance more open and inviting. A couple of members asked that native plants be considered. Tom will return to UFBC with a preliminary plan for discussion.

Miscellaneous: The rain garden clean-up has not been officially scheduled. May 13 may be the best date – ESC will need to confirm.

There is a native plant nursery sale this Saturday, April 29, in Tipp City. Check out Nativeohioplants.com for more information.

Gail began planting the circle at the Recreation Center. 17 plants will be planted. Volunteer help would be appreciated. Contact Gail for more information.

Bobbi has worked with Emily to make a post on social media regarding vines on trunks. Daniele noted a couple of city trees with vines.

Todd complimented the street tree plantings for the diversity, right tree/right place, and the new cultivars utilized. The only concern from members was that some trees were leaning.

Beautification Awards will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next meeting will be May 24, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert