

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**May 24, 2023 7:00 pm**

Members Present: Bobbi Strangfeld, Gail Bason, Jerome Guest, Daniele Eller, Thayne Bedenkop, Sean Creighton, Sheri Callaghan, and Mike Lippert (Staff Representative).

Minutes of April 26, 2023

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Arbor Day 2023 – The event went well with the whole school participating. It started in the gym with Flemming's introductory remarks followed by Mayor Monich's proclamation. Then, there was a scavenger hunt for the children to get familiar with the trees in the school yard. There were lots of volunteers to help. Weather was ok – no rain. The principal, superintendent and public relations people all attended as well.

Stearns Woods Wildflower Walks – Bobbi noted approximately 80 people attended the walks. The weather was good. Bobbi appreciated the volunteer help, especially with parking. The walks were popular and Carol's presentations were well received. They introduced many people to Stearns Woods.

Stearns Woods strategy – UFBC reviewed Tim Sisson's (Western Wildlife Corridor) suggestions for Stearns Woods from last Sunday's walk. It was agreed to come up with a general plan to be approved by the City Manager. The plan should include the areas of clean-up which we agreed initially to be the Oliver Road entrance, the Glenway entrance, and along the main pathway through the woods – in other words the high visibility areas. Invasives to concentrate on include tree vines and honeysuckle as well as Lesser Celandine and other weeds. UFBC would like a new sign installed at Stearns as well as a modification of the Glenway entrance to include a removable bollard instead of the chain. The commission plans to arrange regular clean-up work at Stearns which tentatively would take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month (9-11 AM). City assistance with marketing or clean-up announcements would be appreciated. Communication recommendations will be included in the plan. Other ideas discussed include a volunteer coordinator, notifying those who need volunteer hours of Stearns Woods' plans, and getting buy-in from the neighbors. Finally, the plan will include a discussion of herbicide applications and city assistance with disposing of debris and minor trail clean-up.

Stearns Woods GIS mapping – Sean presented an overview of the mapping completed to date at Stearns Woods. The data is stored on ESRI's ArcGis platform via cell phone capture. Field mapping can include points, lines or polygons (for invasive area, for example). Photos are usually included as well. Mapping was largely done during the first quarter of this year and includes garden plants, invasives, etc. Trees still need to be added. We may want to add historical data (i.e. house foundations, hydrants, etc.). Sean is meeting with Margaret Minzner of OKI later this week to get further assistance and clarifications.

Beautification Awards – Four nominations have been received so far. Bobbi suggested members submit more nominations. Debby Martin's award schedule was circulated. Mike noted there are 3 architectural/landscaping granite awards left from last year that we can use in 2023. We should have money for 2-3 tree awards and possibly 1 community spirit award. Brass plaques are anticipated to be used for these.

New Business:

Miscellaneous: On Tuesday, 6/27/23, at 6 PM there will be a public meeting at the Civic Center to discuss potential streetscape improvements for Springfield Pike. The emphasis is the area north of Wyoming Avenue. All are invited to attend.

Next meeting will be June 28, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert