

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
May 28, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Eric Moore, Sheri Callaghan, Clayton Monahan, Flemming Holm, Bill Felix, Danielle Eller, Cindy Peebles (Council Representative), Mike Lippert (Staff Representative)

Guests: Barb Richman (resident), Jen O'Donnell (Queen City Pollinators), Elizabeth O'Keefe (ESC), Chris Pagan (ESC)

Minutes of April 23, 2025

Minutes were approved as amended

Environmental Stewardship Commission:

1. Environmental Stewardship Commission (ESC) is looking at the possibility of planting pollinator garden(s) in Wyoming. There are several location options including the west end of Stearns Woods and along the Mill Creek near the bike trail hill just south of the North Park ballfield. Jen O'Donnell would be glad to assist as her group advocates for more pollinator gardens and would like Wyoming to be even more "pollinator friendly". This would help with the migration of the endangered Monarch butterfly, for example. She has tree/plant/shrub lists available to help make a pollinator garden have blooms for over 3 seasons/year. Because maintenance is always a concern, she noted that there will be less mowing required – maybe twice a year for the garden itself. There was discussion of including other groups for assistance including the schools and boy/girl scout troops. UFBC is in general support of the endeavor, but wants to make sure there is an educational component as well – perhaps a seminar or workshop. The Recreation Commission could also be involved.
2. UFBC agreed to form a subcommittee to assist ESC (and the Rec Commission) in planning the pollinator garden(s) in Wyoming. Danielle and Bill agreed to be participate.

Resident Input:

1. Barb Richman expressed concern about the amount of honeysuckle in the greenspace next to the bike trail on North Park where she lives. She is beginning to take steps to remove it by cutting it and then placing plastic sheeting over it to smother it. Her removal process is in accordance with recommendations by a botanist at UC and is environmentally appropriate in view of the proximity of the Mill Creek. UFBC supports her plan to remove honeysuckle, but referred her to Rusty for approval of this work as it appears to be on city property. In addition, they noted that future bike trail work is planned there and that some property in the area is actually railroad property.

Old Business:

1. Stearns Woods Nature Preserve Updates – Currently, the June 7 weekend is the last scheduled work event at Stearns. Eric agreed to do some extensive cutting of honeysuckle on June 6 before the volunteers did further clean-up including dragging debris to Oliver. Sheri will be the UFBC leader at the event. UFBC referenced an email by Nathan Niklowski who noted his work at Stearns Woods on May 25 with other volunteers. UFBC is considering additional work dates.

2. Taking Root Mini-Grant – Bill presented the mini-grant proposal to make sure UFBC supported it and had no changes. He explained that the city was aware of the grant application and had made some changes to it in regard to grantee information. UFBC expressed support so Bill submitted the application. It is his understanding the grant review will begin in June and the city will be notified later this summer if the grant is approved.
3. Annual Report to City Council – Clay presented the report to council in May. Several UFBC members were there in support. The report appeared to be well-received by council – especially the maple syrup gift bottles distributed at the end.
4. Beautification Awards – The deadline for submissions is June 13. The submissions will be presented at the June 25 meeting. Commission members will review the nominations over the summer and vote on winners at the August 27, 2025 meeting. Eric will prepare the write-ups and take photos in preparation for the presentation at the October City Council meeting.

Miscellaneous:

1. UFBC expressed interest in reviewing landscaping plans for the three Wyoming elementary schools being rebuilt over the next few years. Mike will take this request to Rusty and Megan.
2. Next meeting will be June 25, 2025

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert