

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**August 23, 2023 7:00 pm**

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

Guests: Bob Byrns (1202 Morts Pass), Jerry Gonzalez (333 Oliver Road)

Minutes of June 28, 2023 and August 9, 2023

Both minutes were approved

New Business:

Vines on Private Trees – Mr. Bob Byrns expressed concern about invasive vines growing in trees and other plantings. He mentioned a couple of private properties (we think) in Wyoming where they are prevalent and wondered if UFBC may volunteer to help remove these vines, if the property owners are amenable. The Commission expressed several concerns about doing this work (i.e., the number of properties affected may be large, liability), but was most concerned about being viewed as representing the City working on private property. Volunteers not associated with the City would be better. It was agreed the Commission will work on some educational pieces for distributing/posting at the upcoming Fall Festival, City email blast, and other venues.

City Manager's Report – The City Manager reminded UFBC that emails are public records, and that email is not appropriate for conducting commission business. Confirming attendance/schedules at UFBC events via email is acceptable. Regarding Stearns Woods, Rusty recommended that a UFBC subcommittee meet with the owner of 333 Oliver (Jerry Gonzalez) to discuss appropriate methods of invasive removal in Stearns Woods. Mr. Gonzalez had previously offered to help with the clean-up of Stearns behind his home. UFBC, which is responsible for overseeing the management of Green Areas such as Stearns Woods, mentioned that they are concerned about heavy equipment in the woods, but will gladly meet with him to review options. Rusty noted City funding for Green Areas maintenance is minimal. Rusty apologized for UFBC not being included in early discussions regarding the Streetscape Improvements on Springfield Pike but invited UFBC participation in the project going forward. On another topic, Rusty is open to reviewing the possibility of volunteer application of herbicides on public property.

Old Business:

Beautification Nominations/Awards – The Commission reviewed the large list of nominations and then voted on awardees. Below are the awardees:

- a. 157 Linden Drive (Architectural)
- b. 128 Wilmuth Avenue (Community Spirit)
- c. 43 Fleming Road (Landscaping)
- d. 230 Reily Road (Landscaping)
- e. 600 Cody Pass (Tree)
- f. 349 Compton Hills Drive (Tree)

g. 53 Sherry Road (Tree)

The City will send out letters to awardees congratulating each on their property in the next week or two. UFBC members will follow up with interviews of each and a brief written summary of each property by October 2 (to Debby Martin). The Commission expressed appreciation for Andrea's work on the awards.

Fall Festival – The Commission confirmed they would like a booth at fall festival on October 7, 2023. It was agreed to try and have two UFBC members scheduled for two-hour shifts at the booth throughout the day beginning at 9:30 a.m. Daniele began booth scheduling.

Miscellaneous: Sean attended the Springfield Pike streetscape public meeting earlier today. Some preliminary sketches/plans were developed and discussed there.

The annual Taking Root tree/plant sale is beginning in September.

The local boy scout, discussed at the last meeting trying to achieve his eagle scout status, has begun working with the City Manager in planning to develop tree signage for the Hike/Bike Trail south of the Recreation Center.

The United States Department of Agriculture has designated August as check month for checking trees for Asian Long horned Beetle.

Next meeting will be September 27, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert