

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
September 24, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Sheri Callaghan, Clayton Monahan, Danielle Eller, Todd Wales, Jerome Guest , Gail Bason, Bill Felix, Flemming Holm, Cindy Peebles (Council Representative), Mike Lippert (Staff Representative)

Guests: Ella Fernandez

Minutes of August 27, 2025

Minutes were approved

Resident Input:

1. None

Old Business:

1. Beautification Awards –

Awards will be distributed at the October 20 city council meeting. Two UFBC members will need to be present since Mr. Lippert is out of town. Mr. Monahan and Mr. Guest are tentatively scheduled. Mr. Lippert reported that the plan is to have the award plaques placed in council chambers on Monday, October 20. Debby Martin will have the powerpoint completed per Mr. Moore's input. A photograph of the winners is usually taken. Mr. Holm forwarded a letter to be sent to the nominated properties that did not win – which Debby Martin sent out.

2. Fall Festival –

Fall festival takes place on October 4, from 10 AM – 5 PM. A schedule was set up so the booth has a UFBC member onsite at all times. It was agreed to conduct raffles throughout the day with prizes being maple syrup and a flower (Aster). Mr. Wales will provide a poster with 2025 beautification awardees. Mr. Lippert will provide the Tree City USA flag, brochures, and miscellaneous booth materials from the past. Baskets of acorns, walnuts and buckeyes will be set up as well. This is always a good opportunity to get more community involvement in UFBC events (i.e. collect emails).

3. Stearns Woods Nature Preserve Updates –

Ren Austing, a Wyoming resident, met with Mr. Monahan and agreed to help with Stearns Woods invasive removal at his schedule as per the city's plan. It was agreed to look into ordering new tree(s) for Stearns Woods for planting on Make a Difference Day as money is available. Oak and Hickory are desirable.

4. Candidate Interviews –

There were 3 candidates with a variety of skills interviewed earlier today for the open position at UFBC. City council will vote to fill this position at the October city council meeting. It was reported there are several UFBC members whose terms expire in 2026.

New Business:

1. Stearns Woods clean-up days -

UFBC set up a schedule for clean-up days this fall: October 18, October 25, November 9, and November 15. Saturdays will be 9-11 and Sundays will be 12-2. Two areas which need work are widening the trail and addressing vines on the Glenway wall. Mr. Lippert will look into ordering glyphosate and a first aid kit for continuing work. UFBC is reaching out to high schoolers and girl scouts for additional participation.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Ms. Eller reported on receipt of a March 20, 2025 report from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) on Wyoming's green areas. The report includes observations and recommendations from ODNR following their walk-thru of Stearns Woods and Ritchie Preserve on March 18, 2025. Mr. Lippert will forward a copy to members.
- b. Mr. Guest discussed Stearns Woods with representative(s) from the Ohio River Foundation. The Ohio River Foundation is a possible source of additional funding or labor. The Ohio River Foundation may provide help at Stearns, but would want to be compensated. Their plan would include clearing invasives for a cost of nearly \$6,000. UFBC may want to meet with Rusty Herzog to see how this could be funded. Or, investigate if matching funds or some other discount could reduce the city's costs.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert