

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
April 27, 2022

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

Minutes of March 23, 2022

Minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business:

Wildflower Inventory – The inventory continues. The results of the inventory will be provided at a May 17, 7 PM program at the Civic Center.

Taking Root Mini-grant –UFBC submitted a \$500 grant application to Taking Root for fall plantings at Stearns Woods. Awardees have not been announced yet.

Tree Plaque Redesign – Sheri's goal was to provide a sample for the meeting, but the engraver was recently unavailable. She purchased a rock for \$5 and hopes to have a sample engraving by next meeting. The city has old brass tree award plaques, if necessary, this year.

Arbor Day Celebration– The Arbor Day celebration is this Friday. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 12:45 at Hilltop School for the 1 PM celebration. Program includes a mayoral proclamation and a scavenger hunt for the third graders.

Tree City USA Luncheon – The annual luncheon was held last Friday in Springdale. Wendi Van Buren, the ODNR's Southwest Ohio regional forester, presented awards as always. The keynote speaker represented "Big Trees USA" who discussed finding impressive trees throughout Ohio including "champion" trees. There was also a speaker from Springdale who discussed proposed development there, which included many trees.

Beautify Awards/Communication – There are only a few nominations for awards so far. More publicity is required, i.e., next door, Facebook, email blast, etc. Members are also asked to nominate properties and trees.

Landscape at Recreation Center – The landscaping has not been completed yet. Public Works will concentrate first at the PSF building, then the Recreation center. Bobbi/Gail agreed to coordinate photos of the Recreation Center installation.

Garden Plot – A former UFBC member, Melanie Steele Hinger, has taken over the open garden plot for UFBC. After a spring planting of vegetables, she plans to plant pollinators this summer.

Annual Report to Council – Bobbi presented the UFBC annual report to council last week. Other than a PowerPoint glitch, the presentation was well received.

New Business:

Fall Festival – It's not too early to begin thinking about fall festival. Several ideas were presented: speaker on native plants, bee brick or board to raffle, etc.

OKI Digital Mapping at Stearns Woods – Margaret Minzer from OKI has agreed to work on a complete digital map of Stearns Woods. She is a professor at Northern Kentucky University and is familiar with mapping projects such as this. There is no charge. She plans to meet this Saturday at Stearns Woods at 9 AM.

Thoughts on "No Mow" – Flemming discussed his thoughts on "no-mow" yards. Many believe grass lawns provide homeowner's the easiest maintenance option for their properties. Some areas/countries are encouraging more "natural" landscaping which could provide environmental benefits. Currently, Wyoming has a weed and grass control ordinance which limits "no-mow" landscapes. Planting native plants and pollinators in a garden bed is one option. Mowing in the front yards and not mowing in the back is another. Education and communication may be key as many people look at "no mow" as poor property maintenance. It was agreed Flemming will prepare some ideas and communication ideas.

Mayors for Monarchs – Bobbi is working with Mayor Monich on this program.

<u>Calendar</u> –	Arbor Day	April 29 (12:45 Hilltop School)
	Rain Garden Maint.	May 14 (9-11 AM high school)
	Wildflower Talk	May 17 (7 pm Civic Center)
	Honeysuckle removal	May 21 tentative (Stearns Woods)

Miscellaneous: Communication and education are two themes discussed at length in this meeting. In the past, this commission provided monthly education articles on tree/plant care, etc. UFBC may want to start this program again with input from most or all members so that the communication responsibility is not overwhelming.

Next meeting will be 5/23/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert