

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**February 23, 7:00 PM**

Members Present: Gail Bason, Sherri Callaghan, Sean Creighton, Todd Wales, Bobbi Strangfeld, Nancy Averett (Council Representative) and Mike Lippert (Staff Representative).  
Guest: Joyce DeVoge, Jack (partner)

Minutes of January 26, 2022

Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Forest Bathing –

Joyce Devoge is a long-time Wyoming resident who recently moved to Amberley Village. She introduced forest bathing to the group. Forest bathing, which came about in the 1980's, is essentially a walking meditation in the woods. It is known to have health and therapeutic benefits. It involves utilizing all 5 senses to "enjoy" the woods. It does not include identifying plants and animal species. Ms. DeVoge has lead forest bathing groups, typically 8-10 people, in Amberley and may be available to lead a group in Stearns Woods. She estimated a 2 hour timetable for this location. Would UFBC be interested in supporting a forest bathing event in Stearns Woods? No, UFBC does not want to facilitate Forest Bathing activities.

Oliver Court Bench Proposal –

UFBC voted to approve the bench proposal contingent on its location being outside the dripline (or at least 15-ft from trunk) of large trees.

Tree Plaque Redesign – Sheri noted in her research of awards, Wyoming's \$75-80 cost per award is very good. She is having trouble finding a "nice" award for close to that cost. She plans to bring examples of possible options next meeting. Todd mentioned the possibility of using something like a "memorial engraved brick" as an award. Whitaker Greer and Belden are two possible brick suppliers for these.

Tree City USA– We are still awaiting final information on the annual luncheon honoring Tree City USA communities. It was cancelled the last couple of years due to Covid. If it is held, we anticipate it to occur April 22; time and location to be confirmed.

Storm Water Workshop – Nancy noted ESC is taking the lead on this workshop. There is no further information at this time.

Arbor Day Celebrations – Bobbi has unsuccessfully reached out to the Wyoming schools about coordinating a program this spring. Hilltop School is the target for the event this year as Elm and Vermont schools were utilized the last couple of years. Sheri agreed to try to reach out to the schools and begin the coordination process.

Ritchie Preserve Mini-Grant – The location to utilize these funds is still not finalized. It was suggested to look at eroded or erodible areas in the preserve and plant wildflowers there.

Beautification Awards & Communication activities – These topics were tabled until the new members came aboard.

Annual Report to City Council – Bobbi has begun preparing the report.

New Business:

Wildflower Inventory – No discussion. Wildflower walks are occurring weekly. All are invited.

Miscellaneous: None

Next meeting will be 3/23/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert