

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**June 22, 2022**

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

Minutes of May 25, 2022

Minutes were approved as amended (added Thayne Bedenkop to members present)

Old Business:

OKI Digital Mapping of Stearns Woods – Bobbi thanked the commission for all the wildflower inventory work this past Spring at Stearns Woods. It is anticipated a subcommittee will meet with OKI (Margaret Minzer) onsite before UFBC's next meeting in August.

The Commission will work on documenting the work done and grants received regarding work at Stearns Woods over the last few years. It is hoped UFBC can present this information along with the mapping data to City Council/Administration at some point to get more direction. We may want to present options and solicit community input either through focus groups or surveys. UFBC is still unsure of the restrictions and limitations for improvements at Stearns Woods. It was noted the city recently approved a couple of benches being installed as part of an Eagle Scout project, so there is some flexibility in regard to keeping it "natural". It was also noted some of the area is being used for mountain biking. UFBC is still interested in relocating the Oliver entrance westward away from the current entrance which leads through a swampy area. Following the completed mapping, we may want to prepare a master plan.

Taking Root Minigrant – The status of the recent application for the Stearns Woods minigrant is unknown. It is anticipated Taking Root will review all the applications and make a grant decision at their July meeting. Following Wyoming's formal request, Taking Root did approve reallocating last year's Ritchie Preserve \$500 mini-grant to Stearns Woods. This grant money must be used by the end of 2022.

Beautify Awards – Andrea is working with Debby Martin on the awards. She will take photographs of the nominees and forward to UFBC members via email in the next few weeks. UFBC members are encouraged to review the nominations before next meeting where we will vote on the winners. In the past, UFBC has awarded

winners at the October council meeting with a power point presentation. Mike noted we have approximately \$550 available in the UFBC budget for the remainder of 2022. So, we are limited to 5 landscaping/community spirit awards plus 2 trees (we have 2 old brass plaques we can recycle). Last year, we paid approximately \$75/award.

Mayors for Monarchs – We discussed how to further enhance the Mayor’s for Monarchs initiative in Wyoming. One idea was to provide regular updates for residents via council and/or email blasts. For example, monarchs are here from mid June through September. We could educate residents on how to attract monarch butterflies to their properties. UFBC could also solicit photographs of monarch butterflies via social media.

Communication Plan – Flemming provided an update on “no mow” ideas. In Denmark, there is a competition for the “wildest” town. Their public area lawns are cut for safety only; they are left “wild” in other areas. This should provide more habitat for bees and other insects. Denmark built an “awareness” campaign. Can Wyoming do something similar?

New Business:

Community Garden – Bobbi noted UFBC has a community garden plot with pollinators.

Next meeting will be 8/24/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert