

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
May 25, 2022

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

Minutes of April 27, 2022

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Arbor Day Recap – Activities were held at Hilltop School with the 3rd Graders. The Mayor read the proclamation and there was a scavenger hunt.

Rain Garden Recap – The annual rain garden cleaning took place May 14. Eight volunteers worked for an hour and a half removing weeds and vines. Minimal garbage or debris was present. An overview of the rain garden operation was provided.

Spring Ephemerals at Stearns Woods Recap – Carol Trosset’s presentation was well received by the 40 people who participated in the Civic Center event. Several UFBC members were present (Two received door prizes) as well as the mayor. Carol essentially summarized volunteer wildflower survey work this past spring in Stearns Woods.

OKI Digital mapping of Stearns Woods – Margaret Minzer of OKI is working with Sean to digitally map plants in Stearns Woods at no cost to the city. She will begin with Carol Trosset’s hand drawn maps before proceeding with more field work. An “App” is being developed for I-phone mapping. Accuracy is limited, but should be fine for general location purposes. It is hoped this mapping will help with management efforts by directing efforts for obtaining funding and other resources. Sean has set up a trial survey run with Margaret in June. UFBC will also begin documenting the history of restoration efforts in Stearns Woods.

Taking Root Minigrant – The status of the recent application for the Stearns Woods minigrant is still unknown. UFBC discussed last year’s Ritchie Preserve \$500 mini-grant which expires at the end of 2021. Mike will investigate whether this money can be reallocated to Stearns Woods.

Tree Plaque Redesign – Sheri was told the company she was working with cannot put the Wyoming logo on a rock. Text is fine, but the logo is too complicated. The logo may work on pavers, though. More discussion is required. She recommended continuing with the existing awards one more year until the new awards are ready.

Beautify Awards/Communication – We currently have 10 nominees. Mike mentioned we only have approximately \$570 left in the budget, so that may limit the number of awards to 5 or 6 in addition to the two brass tree award plaques that are left over. Nomination deadline is June 15. We will discuss next meeting after photos are taken (Andrea).

Mayors for Monarchs – UFBC briefly reviewed the standards for the National Wildlife Federation Mayors' Monarch pledge which Mayor Monich recently approved. Mayors have to commit to a minimum of 3 items, at least one of which has to be from the "program and gardens" section. The group discussed 7 potential options and decided it was best to commit to 3 this year and reconsider the others for next year. These are listed below:

1. Host or support a native seed or plant sale, giveaway, or swap.
 - a. *We have a couple of options for qualifying – fall festival, the spring ephemeral presentation.*
2. Plan or maintain a monarch and pollinator-friendly demonstration garden at City Hall or another prominent community location.
 - a. *We have a couple of options for qualifying – the high school rain garden (existing), or a new garden in the green space by City Hall.*
3. Launch, expand, or continue an invasive species removal program that will support the re-establishment of native habitats for monarch butterflies and other pollinators.
 - a. *Our work mapping invasive species in Stearns Woods is a fit for this commitment.*

Communication Plan – Flemming provided an outline of a possible communication plan for UFBC activities. For each activity, he suggested asking why, who, how and where? Each task or event would have a documented communication plan – this would especially help for recurring activities. Flemming would especially like to reach out to people who aren't plant enthusiasts. We will continue the discussion next meeting.

New Business:

Summer Schedule – We will meet in June, but skip July as usual. The August meeting is scheduled for August 24.

Fall Festival – We briefly discussed fall festival. It is sometimes difficult to get visitors to the UFBC booth. Raffles help – maybe a bee brick or board. Another idea was to provide an activity suited for children.

Community Garden – Mike noted two garden plots are available for UFBC. The Commission expressed no interest in planting/tending these in 2022.

Next meeting will be 6/22/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert