

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**September 28, 2022**

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

Minutes of August 24, 2022

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

Beautification Awards – Andrea is working through the write-ups and PowerPoint to be presented at City Council. Mike has dropped off the award plaques to be engraved. Typically, Historic Preservation awards are awarded the same night as beautification. So, these need to be included in the PowerPoint/write-ups. Debby Martin should have these.

Fall Festival – Saturday's schedule was finalized for the UFBC booth. Mike will prepare City's box of supplies (banner, Tree City flag, etc.) for the event. Thayne requested ISA flyers to be set out. Two Aster plants will be raffled off.

Make a Difference Day October 22 – It was agreed to purchase six Persimmon trees, if available, plus deer protection fence and a bigleaf magnolia, if the \$500 Taking Root mini-grant budget permits. Rusty requested that plantings do not infringe onto the grass area west of the Stearns Woods forest area.

GIS Update of Stearns/Green Areas Limitations – No update on the GIS survey. Sean plans to reach out to Margaret Minzner of OKI to schedule an onsite visit.

ODNR Urban Canopy Restoration Grant – Mike updated the city's tree management plan, which addressed many of Wendi's comments from last year. A copy will be forwarded to Sean and Todd to review. Comments are due by Friday, October 8, so they can be incorporated into grant.

Stearns Woods – Direction for the Future – Flemming provided an outline/preliminary document regarding Stearns Woods. The purpose is to educate council, staff, and the community regarding Stearns Woods and to ultimately help develop a vision for the future. It is planned the document will address the issue of maintaining Stearns Woods in its "natural" state and the goals for the property going forward. We eventually wish to assemble/include information on the many past efforts for restoration and revitalization as well as to provide a brief history of the land there. UFBC members were encouraged to provide background information to Flemming to continue this work.

Next meeting will be October 26, 2022.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert