

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**February 26, 2020**

Members Present: Andrew Heckaman, Gail Bason, Thayne Bedenkop, Bobbi Strangfeld, Andrea Betts, Sean Creighton, Kate Miller, Melissa Monich, Todd Wales, Nancy Averett (City Council Representative) and Mike Lippert (Staff Representative)

Minutes of January 22, 2020

Minutes were approved.

**Old Business:**

Urban Forestry & Beautification:

Communication Coordinator: Melissa has agreed to coordinate communication. ESC prepares 1 article per month. It was suggested to “piggyback” on their topics. However, specific UFBC activities, events and issues will be highlighted as well. Melissa will make email requests to members for comments and suggestions for articles before publishing.

Trees & Construction: Andrea, Sherry, and Mike met with Terry Huxel. Terry was concerned about references to “drip line” in regard to tree protection on street projects as this is too restrictive. Therefore, the document was expanded to separate street tree protection standards from site work (or park) tree protection standards during construction. In both cases, the proposed standards call for the city’s arborist to perform a preconstruction survey prior to each project. A formal copy of the revised tree protection standards should be available for review at the next meeting.

Arbor Day: This is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of April 24 at Elm School. Sean has set up a planning meeting for March 3 with an administrator at the school to discuss details regarding which classes/grades will be involved, where the scavenger hunt will take place, etc. Sean hopes to obtain an Arbor Day tree also. The mayor will be invited to give the proclamation as well.

Tree City USA Luncheon: The luncheon is scheduled for April 17 from approximately 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The Mayor plans to attend with Mike. Those interested may contact Mike to be included in the reservation.

Subcommittee Assignments/Calendar: There was more discussion on subcommittees. Below are the tentative chairs:

Arbor Day	Sean, Bobbi
UFBC Awards	Andrew
Fall Festival	Andrea
Workshop	Melissa, Todd, Sean, Bobbi
Tree sale	Gail
MADD	Bobbi, Sean, Mike
Street Trees	Gail, Todd, Thayne, Andrea
Container Planting	Gail
Green Areas	Gail, Thayne, Kate
Pollinator Garden	Bobbi, Andrew, Nancy

Melissa will address and update the calendar based on input from these chair people.

Beautify Wyoming Awards: Andrew is chairing this subcommittee. He may need some help with publicity. There is a new “app” which makes nominations easier. Post meeting note (added by Debby M.): The online/electronic process to nominate a property for a Beautify Wyoming Award is not an “app” it is part of a series of forms on a variety of topics, on the City’s website that can be filled out electronically. All of these electronic forms are on the home page of the website under the Service Requests tab.

Storm Water Workshop: This workshop is scheduled for the fall and will be in conjunction with ESC. In the meantime, a “mini-event” is proposed to coincide with the rain garden clean-up on May 9. Bobbi proposes a small presentation be made before clean-up about the operation of the rain garden and the plants involved. The Commission thought getting the high school students involved would be beneficial as well.

April has been designate as native plant month for Ohio. Could native plants be discussed at the Rain Garden event? Could we have another event just for native plants? High school groups such as “Project Hope” and the “Green Team” could be involved/invited.

Stearns Woods Update: A clean-up was scheduled from April 4 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The plan is to remove honeysuckle and clean-up tree wrap, posts, stakes, and tree tubes also. Thayne will prepare a plan to present to the city. April 11 is the rain date. Additional clean-up days in April may also be desired. Some of the removed items may be able to be reused. Mike will check with the city regarding possible storage.

Ritchie Preserve: The Millcreek Alliance performed a walk-through recently to look into possible improvement projects for Ritchie Preserve. There are some serious MSD sewer issues in the area that need to be addressed. Some honeysuckle and invasive removals can occur prior to MSD’s work.

### **New Business:**

Green Areas Foresters: Thayne presented an idea to “resurrect” the Green Areas Foresters group with their goal to maintain long-term stewardship of the Green Areas. The idea is to model the group after the Trowel & Error Garden Club which maintains Centennial Park. The Commission voted unanimously to support Thayne’s proposal. Thayne will work with Nancy in getting administration/council approval.

Promenade: Todd Wales presented lighting ideas for the promenade. He noted that the limited right-of-way width restricts design alternatives. LED lighting enhancements would highlight the area.

Welcome to Wyoming Signs/Street Signs: Mike presented the proposed sign fascia for the Welcome to Wyoming signs. The Commission generally supported the new design, but was concerned about too much reflectivity. Mike also showed photos of the proposed aluminum street sign post. This would replace the current concrete sign posts which have safety issues and are difficult to replicate. The Commission generally supported the new design, but had questions regarding the City’s replacement plan. Post meeting notes: Commission would like to revisit the sign post issue in more detail next meeting.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Master Plan: This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert