

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**January 26, 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: Carol Trosset

Minutes of December 8, 2021

Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Stearns Woods plant survey -

Our guest, Carol Trosset discussed a possible wildflower survey for Stearns Woods. She mentioned the multitude of wildflower species and birds she has found in much smaller sites. The purpose of this survey would be to locate the various species to consider protection strategies from deer and invasives as well as to enhance enjoyment of the park. Wildflowers typically bloom in the months following snow, but before leaves. It was agreed UFBC would hold regular (weekly) Stearns Woods wildflower walks over the next couple of months to document the wildflowers this spring. Ultimately, Carol thought this project could span multiple years and include other volunteers and even the schools.

A full tree and plant inventory for Stearns Woods may be considered as a parallel or subsequent project. Nancy mentioned some possibilities for expertise and student help if we wish to go this route. Some technology we could utilize include lidar data and ortho photography.

Plaque Redesign -

Sheri reviewed some options for tree awards. It was hoped the tree award could match the quality of the existing Beautification awards. Some award options seem a little "cheap" in regard to materials. Option prices vary based on size/quality. Most are in the \$50-\$120 range which is relatively close to the \$75 price we pay for the existing 12" carved granite square tiles. It was agreed to do further investigation.

ODNR Street Tree Grant Update – At the last meeting, it was mentioned that the city's most recent ODNR street tree grant application was rejected. Mike met with Rob Nicolls, Chuck Zeilman and Wendi Van Buren (ODNR) to discuss making improvements to our grant application for the future. We will have further internal meetings and determine what UFBC help may be needed for another grant application this fall.

Taking Root mini-grants – The City completed the summary of activities for our most recent \$2,000 grant for Stearns Woods and submitted the final report to Taking Root. All money was used and we have not received any feedback from Taking Root. The City received a \$500 mini-grant for Ritchie Preserve a year ago. We had discussed using this money for improvements on the east end of the park with Rusty, but need to confirm the location based on property data. This money must be utilized by the end of 2022. It was agreed to apply for another \$500 Taking Root mini-grant for Stearns Woods. This could cover improvements to the northwest corner of this Green Area.

Tree City USA–The City received notice that Wyoming was awarded the Tree City USA designation in 2021. The annual awards luncheon is typically in April – we have not received notice of this event.

Storm Water Workshop – ESC is taking the lead on this workshop since storm water is more closely aligned with their mission. UFBC is willing to assist. It was reported they have a speaker lined up, but the date has not been finalized. Program details need to be established/communicated as well. Bobbi reported that she has a contact at Glenwood Gardens who potentially could be available for a Q & A session.

#### New Business:

March meeting with High School Green Team – This is tentatively scheduled. Laura from ESC is setting this up. UFBC could present our annual report to let the school know of all our activities.

Arbor Day April 2022 – The National Arbor Day celebration will be held April 29, 2022. Bobbi/Sean will work with the schools to coordinate activities this year. Last year, it was remote in conjunction with Elm school. They had activities throughout the week including a scavenger hunt and a tree video. We anticipate working with Hilltop School this year, but need to coordinate with teachers/principal.

Annual Report to City Council – This is currently scheduled for the April city council meeting (April 18). Powerpoint help may be requested.

Beautification awards– We will need a new subcommittee chair to facilitate the awards program this year in view of Andrew leaving UFBC.

Calendar – Bobbi will update our calendar based on the activities noted above.

Miscellaneous:

1. There was discussion of providing more communication regarding large tree removal in the city. Although the city notified adjacent property owners regarding the recent Hilltop tree removal, some felt it may make sense to do wider notification for large tree removal in view of the number of residents who drive by. What's Up Wyoming, email blasts, social media and/or other methods may be considered.
2. Mike will review available money in the Tree Canopy Fund and sewer leak issue in Ritchie Preserve – was it repaired?

Next meeting will be 2/23/22.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert