

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
January 25, 2023 7:00 pm

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

Minutes of December 7, 2022

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

GIS Update of Stearns Woods – A meeting was recently held at Stearns Woods with Sean, Bobbi, Rusty, Mike and Margaret Minzner of OKI. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the mapping project as well as OKI's involvement to Rusty. OKI has expressed the importance of Green Areas in the region and wants to support local communities in their efforts regarding Green Areas. So, OKI has developed a portable phone "app" to help in surveying. Information surveyed will housed at OKI but be available to Wyoming. OKI will even help Wyoming download information into Wyoming's GIS, if necessary. This spring, Wyoming will begin the mapping of plantings, wildflowers, etc. It is hoped the mapping will show progress/improvements at Stearns Woods through the years. In addition, it will help with community education and grant writing. It is anticipated UFBC will eventually report findings and proposals to city council. Budget adjustment proposals, if any, should be made in the summer to align with the city's budgeting schedule.

Stearns Woods Wildflower walks – Three dates have been set up for wildflower walks this Spring – March 4, April 1, and April 22, 2023. Carol Trosset, who led wildflower surveys last year, has agreed to lead them. There are two scheduled each day to control the number of people participating at a time.

Stearns Woods Mini-grant update – UFBC is assisting the City in submitting another Taking Root grant in 2023. The December 2022 deadline for applications was missed. Submittals for Spring mini-grants are due in March with plantings scheduled for fall. Bobbi/Sean will prepare.

Tour of Stearns Woods with Taking Root – Taking Root's Steering Committee and Board have expressed interest in participating in a Stearns Woods tour. Typically, Taking Root is more focused on street/park/yard trees (urban forest), so Stearns Woods would provide more of an actual forest setting. A date needs to be set.

Stearns Woods vision – Flemming prepared an outline and draft report on a preliminary vision for Stearns Woods. His initial views are this document could include goals for the future with a work plan and other strategies to achieve the goals. There was lively discussion on goals which could include education (city council, city staff, community, schools), acquisition of grants, etc. Then, discussion centered around active/passive participation and whether Stearns Woods should be considered a park or a green space. It was agreed to table the discussion until next meeting.

New Business:

Arbor Day 2023: - April 28 is the official Arbor Day nationally in the USA. Tentatively, a subcommittee will begin work with Vermont Schools to develop programming. In general, it is anticipated the program will be

similar to past years. Adam Beard is the contact at Vermont. Flemming, Jerome and Sean expressed interest in participating.

Tree City USA Luncheon – This year’s celebration is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023. Please let Mike Lippert know if you are interested in attending and tickets will be purchased by the city.

UFBC Annual Report: - UFBC is planning to present the annual report to city council in April. The powerpoint from past years can be used as a template. UFBC will need a presenter.

Next meeting will be February 22, 2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert