

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**May 27, 2020 (7:00 PM Oak Park)**

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

Minutes of February 26, 2020

Minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Urban Forestry & Beautification:

**UFBC Annual Report to Council:** The annual report has been prepared and is ready to present to City Council. The Commission would like to make the presentation in person, if possible. Virtual Council meetings are scheduled through July. Therefore, the commission is shooting for an August presentation. If virtual meetings continue, the Commission is prepared to do a Zoom PowerPoint.

**Beautify Wyoming Awards:** 4 nominations have been received by the City (3 properties and 1 tree). Andrew will prepare a NextDoor post. The Commission will vote on awards at the June meeting. Front yards/trees are preferable. Because of budget concerns, we may be limited on awards although we may be able to recycle some awards from the past.

**Storm water Workshop:** This is tentatively scheduled for September 12 at City Council Chambers. The event will be a collaboration with ESC and will include information on Native plants as well. A speaker is lined up. There was discussion on alternative dates, but that may be difficult due to the speaker's schedule.

New Business:

**Pollinator Garden Maintenance/Watering:** The pollinator garden at the Community Gardens looks good right now. There was discussion of planting additional sages and zinnias. Andrew will email information on scheduling maintenance/watering activities throughout the summer. There are a couple of dead trees that need to be removed. It was thought replacement would be unnecessary. It was suggested that an "expert" be brought in to prune/discuss pruning of fruit trees next year. Adam Beard from Vermont School is a possibility.

**Green Areas Trust/Ritchie Preserve:** Thayne began invasive removal in this Preserve. He noted there are three public entrances to the preserve – 2 on Ritchie and one on Springfield Pike. He said there are many wildflowers in the upper portion of the preserve and the creek is in better shape there. Many residents seem to be receptive of improving the preserve. Erosion and high stream flows have uncovered/damaged storm/sanitary pipes and water mains which need to be addressed. Thayne has obtained permission from the City to work in the preserve. He will pursue obtaining approval for a group clean-up later this summer.

**UFBC Garden Tour:** Nancy suggested the possibility of UFBC starting an annual garden tour. The Commission expressed support, but was concerned about the timetable for this year. Melissa and Nancy will look into the feasibility of a June or July tour this year. The Commission would like to begin planning a 2021 Garden Tour as soon as possible.

Miscellaneous:

**Master Plan:** The Master Plan matrix was brought up. It was generally thought UFBC could be included in more areas/projects/tasks as the commission's current mission is fairly narrow. Mike will get with Kate and Megan to review/modify the matrix. One item specifically discussed was the removal of existing plants at the Recreation Center field project. Could some of these species be saved and replanted? Inclusion of UFBC in this project (or similar projects) earlier could help in noting these type of issues.

**Tree Inventory:** Todd has inventoried approximately 2,000 trees in southeastern Wyoming. The GPS/phone connection has been difficult lately. The City is incorporating this GPS work into its tree program and finding the data extremely useful.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert