



Tree Advisory Committee
Monday, February 23, 2015
Meeting Minutes
At City Hall
7:00 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 19.82 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice is hereby given that the Tree Advisory Committee of the City of Fitchburg, Dane County Wisconsin, will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2015 in the Meeting Room at the Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711 to consider the following:

- Call to Order
Called to order at 7:08 PM. In attendance: Rod Bina, Terrell Brock, Chairperson, Diane Dillet, Melinda Douglass, Jeremy Hecht, Ed Bartell, City Forester, Laura Lorentz, LTE Parks and Forestry Assistant.
- Approval of Minutes – January 12, 2015
Bina moved to approve, Dillet second, minutes approved.
- Public Appearances - Non Agenda Items
None.
- Communication
Bartell discussed:
 - Spring 2015 Tree Planting - Roughly 145 trees will be planted in Fitchburg by Herman Landscaping for a cost of \$24,469.
 - Attended SCRUFFS meeting - a monthly meeting for urban foresters in the South Central region of Wisconsin.
 - Upcoming Forestry Operations meeting on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 which includes staff from the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Forestry and Public Works.
 - There are 368 ash trees that will be assessed and inspected this spring. Bartell estimates that 235 to 368 public ash trees will be treated for EAB this spring. Ash tree removals will begin in the near future - the crews currently have a list of 27 ash trees marked for removal.
 - The Tower Hill Greenway Restoration project - the next steps in the process are to set the lath for siting trees and meet with residents on site. This project should be completed by the end of May, 2015.
 - The public works and parks maintenance staff are pruning the following management units: McGaw Park pine trees, Seminole Hills Estates, Lacy heights, Orchard Pointe, Clayton, Rimrock Highlands of Seminole and Swan Creek.
 - Bartell recently met with Harlan Hills Prairie Volunteers. The group plans to work with Steve Banovetz from Field and Stream Restorations for spring treatments including seeding and planting.
 - Bartell will attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 22, 2015 to determine if there is continued support among the Council for the Tree Advisory Committee.
 - At the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 22, 2015, Bartell will be presenting the updated EAB Plan and the revised Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan to the Council and Mayor. Bartell hopes to gain Common Council approval for the UFSMP in August of 2015.
- Review and Approve Agenda
Dillet moved to approve, Douglass second, agenda approved.
- Discussion: Arbor Day/Migratory Bird Day Celebration

- Bartell reported that Parks, Recreation & Forestry is partnering with Stormwater to fund the development of a logo for City of Fitchburg environmental events. The logo is being created by a professional graphic designer.
- Bartell presented drafts of the Arbor Day/Bird Day Flyer - the draft including photographs from last year's celebration will be utilized to publicize this year's event. Advertisement for the event will include a write-up in the Fitchburg Star and distribution of the flyer.
- Bartell will contact the Raptor Education Group, Inc. (REGI) and David Drake to check their availability for the event.
- As opposed to scooped ice cream, ice cream bars were suggested for a snack as they are less messy and easier to distribute to the event attendees.
- Bina expressed concerns over the availability of the actors from Eagle School to perform the tree skit at the Arbor Day/Bird Day celebration. He will be sending a questionnaire to the parents to see if there is a time slot that would work for the majority of the kids. Bina will have more information near the end of March.
- Discussion: Fitchburg Urban Forest Survey Results Analysis
Results from the Urban Forest Survey were presented and discussed. The following observations were noted among the group:
 - Overall, a good response from the community with over 530 survey responses.
 - Hecht noticed that the number of respondents who did not provide an answer varied between roughly 90 and 130 for each question.
 - Q1 - residents are aware of and value the benefits that trees provide to the Fitchburg community.
 - Q2a - people who answered that there are 'too few' trees on their street were mostly from neighborhoods where trees are small or where there are no sidewalks and residents were responsible for planting their own trees in the right-of-way.
 - Q2c - roughly one-third of respondents feel that there is not enough visual diversity on their streets. This lack of diversity may be referring to fall color, tree size, tree age, and flowering as opposed to just tree species diversity. This may indicate an opportunity for educational outreach to define and discuss the importance of diversity in the urban forest.
 - Q14 - there is a lot of support for a heritage tree program with over 90% of respondents in support of such a program.
 - Q15 - over 90% of respondents own their homes and over 61% of respondents have lived in Fitchburg for more than 10 years.
 - Q17 - this survey reached people from many different neighborhoods, both older and newer developments. Are the number of responses from each neighborhood proportionate to the number of residents in each neighborhood?
 - Q19 - this level of response shows that many residents want to get involved with the natural resources of Fitchburg. There may be a need for a volunteer coordinator. We could ask these volunteers if they would be willing to help with Arbor Day/Bird Day or if they know any groups of kids who would be interested in doing a tree planting with the Mayor.
 - Comments:
 - Q5 - There is a lot of poison ivy along the bike paths including the Capitol City Trail near Chicory Meadow and on the Badger State Trail between PD and Lacy Road.
 - There may be an educational opportunity to inform residents about the efforts taken and science behind choosing the right tree for the right spot. There seems to be some misinformation regarding the planting of trees under overhead power lines as suggested in some of the comments.
 - Bartell encouraged the group to contact him with any additional comments or ideas on the results from the survey,
- Discussion: Date for Public Informational Meeting

Public Informational Meeting tentatively scheduled for the evening of Thursday, March 26th, 2015.

- Discussion: Revision of Urban Forest Strategic Management Plan
Bartell will be using the results from the Urban Forest Survey as well as comments and feedback from the Tree Advisory Committee to continue updating and revising the UFSMP. A draft of the UFSMP will be presented at the Public Informational Meeting to obtain additional feedback from the community.
- Future Agenda Items
Details on the upcoming UFSMP Public Informational Meeting.
- Adjournment
Douglass moved to adjourn, Bina second, motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.
The next meeting will be Monday, March 16th, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

NOTE: It is possible that members of and possibly a quorum of members of other government bodies of the municipality may be in attendance at the above stated meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any governmental body at the above stated meeting other than the governmental body specifically referred to above in this notice. Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact Fitchburg City Hall, 5520 Lacy Road, Fitchburg, WI 53711. 608-270-4200.