

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 – 1:00pm – Lower-Level Conference Room 58 - City Hall

Committee Members Present:

Cindy Gilberts (Absent)	Joe Jax (Chair) (4.0 hrs.)	
Bob Giede (Absent)	Dennis Kropp (1 hr.)	Mike Schendel (1.0 hr.)
Mike Smith (1.0 hr.)	Eric Sutherland (1 hr.)	Monika Herrmann (2.0 hrs.)

Others present: Megen Hines, Dave Frank, Mike Morrow, Tammy Eckert

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Joe Jax. A sign-up sheet was passed around with names of attendees and their number of volunteer hours worked. November 2022 minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and reviewed. Dennis Kropp made a motion to accept those minutes and Mike Schendel seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

2023 DNR Urban Forestry Grant Work Plan: Staff met with the DNR for a kick-off meeting for the grant to discuss eligible expenses, reporting timelines and scope of work. Grant includes moving and expanding the gravel bed nursery, planting trees, and education initiatives for the website, newsletter and social media.

Ordinance/Website: Hines sent the draft ordinance to the regional DNR forestry contact for review. Once that review is received, administration will review as well as the City attorney. The ordinance would then come back to the Urban Forestry board for recommendation to the City Council for approval. The Council would then take action on whether to approve the changes.

The City is working with a new vendor, CivicPlus, to create an entire new website for the City. This will work well with the proposed updates to the Urban Forestry and Tree Care pages of the website. The new website is expected to launch in June. Hines will work with the Urban Forestry Board and the DNR to coordinate updating the Urban Forestry and tree care website pages.

Proposed Ash Project Partnership with UW-Stout: Benches have been tabulated & counted and have been discovered to need a variety of maintenance due to outside elements. UFB member Monika has been working in conjunction with a U.W. Stout professor and class to create a project for a group of students to work on to research and create a document detailing the required maintenance for the benches. City administration would then discuss whether this is maintenance that the City can take on or work with UW-Stout to have a partnership for students to complete the maintenance.

Vacancy on Board: Currently seeking applications for an open board position. Submit interest to Mayor Randy Knaack 1st floor of the City Hall offices at 800 Wilson Avenue, Menomonie.

Memoriam John Anshus: Discussion of a memoriam for John held in conjunction with Arbor Day - Friday, April 28, 2023. Possible locations, a Lake Bank, a City Park, etc. More discussion at the next meeting.

Urban Forester Report:

Winter Pruning Progress: Morrow reports that Butch's Bay, Lakeside Park, and Elmwood Park saw pruning in those areas this past month. A total of 16 trees, 2 Maple and 14 Ash Trees went down and there are about 50 more to go. Removals are being documented in the City's GIS tree canopy database and will be used to determine planting locations in the fall.

City Council Report:

- Lowell Prange will be retiring in April of this year.
- Randy Eide's replacement for Public Works Director is David Schofield, his first day is January 30th, 2023.

- The zoning request for the vacant lot by Culver's was denied. A large contingent of the community was heard from in their votes.

Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

- John Anshus - Memoriam
- Arbor Day – School Tree Planting
- Honor a Business for Landscaping and/or Forest Canopy
- UF Board Vacancy

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 15, 2022 – **1:00 p.m.** in lower level of City Hall – Conference Room 058.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Monika Herrmann to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Dennis Kropp. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Eckert