

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 1:00pm – Lower-Level Conference Room 58 - City Hall

Committee Members Present:

Cindy Gilberts (1.0 hr.)	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 (Absent)

Others present:

Kevin Dietsche, Associate Professor UW Stout; David Schofield, Public Works Director; Megen Hines, Environmental Program Coordinator; Dave Frank, Community Services Superintendent; Mike Morrow, City Forester; and 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. January 2023 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: Hines reports that no work has been done on the Grant proposal yet and no work has been completed by the Community Services Building staff working on the gravel bed at this time. We do have the full year 2023 to finish our objectives to meet Grant requirements.

Ordinance Update: The ordinance has been reviewed by the DNR and by City staff. Schofield discussed notable changes including the definition of boulevard and adding a reference to NR 40 listed invasives in the public nuisance section. Hines reminded the board that she should be contacted as soon as possible if the board wants to change anything in the ordinance before it is submitted to the City Attorney and then on for approval at the City Council level.

Proposed Ash Project Partnership with UW-Stout: Kevin Dietsche, Assistant Professor at UW Stout from the Engineering and Technology Department shared his plan for the proposed Partnership between UW Stout and the Urban Forestry Board regarding the Ash Tree Project. Herrmann had the idea “To take something dead and dying and create something beautiful” and invited Dietsche to the meeting today. Kevin went on to propose using his Classroom where emphasizes the use of creativity, problem solving skills, fabrication, and product development in his technology curriculum. He presented his idea to create toys for children in the community from the dead ash trees the city cuts down. Something that creates goodwill between our home town University and the City. The toys would be donated back into the community. After development he would pass on the project to Capstone as to how to manufacture the toys. Professor Dietsche’s Department was awarded a grant for the next 3 years to help with the costs incurred. He requests from the city 20-30 logs about 8’ long with 15” diameter. Morrow, Urban Forester, stated they could cut, drop, and store the logs on the city yard. Dietsche stated that he is in the process of contacting and setting a date with the sawyer. He estimates June/July.

Vacancy on Board: Hines let the board know that Liz Osborne, who was at a conference and could not attend in person today, wrote a letter of interest for the position and Megen Hines read her letter of interest and her qualifications to the Board. A motion was made in support of Liz Osborne being appointed as a member to the Urban Forestry Board. Dennis Kropp made a motion to accept and Cindy Gilbert seconded it. Motion passed. It will be submitted to Mayor Randy Knaack to recommend to the City Council for final approval.

Memoriam John Anshus: Planting a Tree on Arbor Day in his memory is planned on Arbor Day.

Arbor Day Celebration: Arbor Day this year is Friday, April 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The Urban Forestry Board will celebrate it that day by planting a tree in memory of John Anshus who was a Charter Member of the Urban Forestry Board and who sadly passed away this past October. Also, on the agenda, are plans to invite a speaker to help acknowledge Menomonie as a Bird City once again this year.

Arbor Day School Tree Planting: Hines suggested inviting the 4th Grade students from Wakanda Elementary to attend this short celebration. David Schofield will get in touch with the Dunn County Historical Society in Wakanda Park for the location.

Friend of Urban Forestry Award: UFB discussed different businesses or persons for this award. Further discussion will continue at the next meeting. The Board is encouraged to bring more ideas for deserving businesses or persons who go over and above the norm in incorporating greenery in their business or community.

Urban Forester Report:

Winter Pruning Progress: Morrow reports that a total of 107 dead or dying trees (beyond saving) were cut in the last month! The crews have been hard at work in Elmwood Park and 6th, 7th and 8th Streets. 90 Ash trees, 12 Maple and 5 miscellaneous were cut down. 20-30 trees will be saved and stored at the city lot for the 2023 Toys Ash Tree Project.

City Council Report:

- Council passed the Tree City and Bird City Requests for the City of Menomonie again this year.
- Council also passed equipment/machinery for the Community Services Department to replace aged equipment.

Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

- 2023 DNR - Urban Forestry Grant Update
- CivicPlus - Website
- UFB Ordinance Status
- Arbor Day Celebrations Plans
- 1. Location – Historical Society
- 2. Memoriam John Anshus-Tree Selection and placement
- 3. Bird Tree City Speaker follow up
- 4. Wakanda Student Attendance
- 5. Brochure
- Honor a Business for Landscaping and/or Forest Canopy

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

Adjournment: A motion was made by Cindy Gilberts to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Mike Schendel. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Eckert