

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023 – 1:00pm – Lower-Level Conference Room 58 - City Hall

Committee Members Present:

Cindy Gilberts (1 hr.)	Joe Jax (Chair) (2.5 hrs.)	Liz Usborne (2 hrs.)
Bob Giede (Absent)	Dennis Kropp (12.0 hrs.)	Mike Schendel (Absent)
Mike Smith (1.0 hr.)	Eric Sutherland (1.5)	Monika Herrmann (3.0 hrs.)

Others present: Megen Hines, Environmental Program Director; Dave Frank, Community Services Superintendent; Mike Morrow, Parks Foreman/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. June & July 2023 minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and reviewed. Dennis Kropp made a motion to accept those minutes and Cindy seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

2023 DNR Urban Forestry Grant: A portion of the grant requires an education piece. Megen Hines presented a Tree Planting Care Tips document; a loose-leaf page that would fit inside a brochure to be distributed to the community. If the board approves it, approximately 7500 of them would be distributed throughout the city. Additionally, the DNR link is now active on the City Website – To navigate the DNR site from the home page on the City Website, go to *Community, Sustainability (or Energy Resources)* then *Trees*.

Urban Forestry Board Brochures: Discussion regarding each of the existing brochures; “Recommended Trees for Menomonie”, Forestry & Friends” and the “Heritage Tree Program” are in the process of being either consolidated, modified, updated or discontinued due to lack of interest.

Friends of Forestry Program Guidelines: The GFCW Menomonie Woman’s Club handled this program in the past and did not realize this program was still “active”. Currently this organization purchases the hanging flower baskets that hang in throughout the City of Menomonie. Due to this well-received beautification program, they are hesitant to start another project and may not want to take on this additional project.

Adopt a Bench and Maintenance Guidelines: Hard copies were received and a spreadsheet was created with the criteria for maintenance, location, and number of benches (sixteen in all). Discussion regarding how to adopt a tree would be put on the city website and communication with the adoptee would be made thru email to interested persons/groups.

Galloway Creek Restoration Project: The project is back up and running again with a board-oriented vs executive director form of governance. Discussion regarding the money left in the program would be used for ordering trees, shrubs, and benches for Galloway Creek. Plans to plant 100 trees & shrubs in September followed by staking and fencing would be done by volunteers, specifically UW Stout Students and the local High School biology classes.

Items to Add to the next Agenda: (None were volunteered at this time) – See Parking Lot

Forester Report: Mike Morrow reports that the cutting of dead, damaged, or dangerous trees and branches continues throughout the summer. Additionally, the city will plant 4 new trees in the right of way in front of St Paul’s Lutheran Church.

City Council Report: -County Judges did a presentation on the effects of drug abuse and how it affects the families in our community. -Wakanda Park received funding to fill potholes at the grade school and road leading to the school. -City budgets are in process under new management this year and are currently at their first review level. Lowell Prange has been hired by the city of Menomonie as a consultant to aid in the process. -Stokke Trail received funding this Fall to blacktop the upper and lower portion of this recreational trail.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 – **1:00 p.m.** in lower level of City Hall – Conference Room 058.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Cindy Gilberts and seconded by Liz Usborne to adjourn. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Eckert