

Menomonie Urban Forestry Board Minutes

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 1:00pm – Lower-Level Conference Room 58 - City Hall

Committee Members Present:

Cindy Gilberts (2 hrs.)

Joe Jax (Chair) (3.5 hrs.)

Liz Usborne (3 hrs.)

Bob Giede (2.5)

Dennis Kropp (10 hr.)

Mike Schendel (2.0 hrs.)

Mike Smith (Absent)

Eric Sutherland (Absent)

Monika Herrmann (5.0 hrs.)
(absent)

Others present:

Megen Hines, Environmental Program Coordinator; 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. April 2023 minutes were sent to the committee prior to the meeting and reviewed. Dennis Kropp made a motion to accept those minutes and Cindy Gilberts seconded. Motion passed.

Public Comment: None

2023 DNR Urban Forestry Grant Plan: Hines reports that Community Services Department installed the Tree Bed at the Wakanda Location. An order to put a fence around it is in. One hundred and twenty-five (125) stumps ground where 210 trees were cut this past year. Thirty-two Trees have been planted near or in the same as place where the stumps were ground down. Another Shipment of trees will be in in about two weeks. The Education portion of the grant is a work in progress. A report to the DNR will be submitted at the end of June as to the status of the complete project.

Vandalism of Recently Planted Trees: Morrow alerted the council to the fact that only 2 trees have survived in the past 10 years where the city has planted new trees on Wilson Avenue due to ongoing vandalism there. Joe Jax emphasized that when anyone sees vandalism being done to these trees, we must report it right away; either to authorities, the street department or to himself.

Adopt a Bench Program Maintenance Assessment: UW- Stout Students wrapped up their bench assessments regarding maintenance and care plans for each bench. A report will be compiled by the students and submitted to the Board when it is complete.

Arbor Day Celebration Recap: Festivities this Spring included a tree planting and dedication to the Memory of John Anshus, a former Charter member of the Urban Forestry board, with his family in attendance. There was another tree planting and native plant seed balls were made by the 4th Grade Wakanda Elementary Students. The Friend of the Urban Forestry Award was given to Anderson Windows for their commitment to planting trees and converting a part of their landscape to a pollinator prairie. The events took place at the Dunn County Historical Grounds at Wakanda Park.

“Parking Lot”: The Board discussed keeping a list of future items to discuss in a “Parking Lot”. The list of ideas is to be added to the minutes when the board requests it.

2023 Dunn County Fair -Urban Forestry booth: A Motion was made by Dennis Kropp to cease putting up the Urban Forestry Fair Booth this year (2023) and seconded by Cindy Gilberts. Motion passed.

Urban Forester Report:

City Forester Morrow states that the city crew has been busy picking up several broken limbs in the past few weeks within the city. Thirty-two trees have been planted out of about 112 trees that are on order so far. A lot of those trees were planted in the south end of the city where stumps had been ground out this Spring. The next shipment of eight-two (82) trees will be here the week of May 22nd.

City Council Report:

- Mayor Knaack and the City Council appointed and approved Amy Gjestson to become the next City Treasurer/Comptroller. Amy will start working with Heidi Olson on June 1, 2023. She will be trained by Heidi through the month of June before assuming sole responsibility for the position on July 1, 2023.
- The City Council approved purchase offers for 3 lots on Brickyard Road for Habitat for Humanity to build 3 twin homes over the next couple of years.

Items for Next Meeting Agenda:

- 2023 DNR - Urban Forestry Grant Update
- Create guidelines for the Adopt a Bench Program
- Update on Cork Tree Status

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 21, 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 Bob Giede to adjourn. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by: Tammy Eckert