

**Minutes**  
**Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission**  
**April 23, 2025**

Members Present: Eric Moore, Sheri Callaghan, Clayton Monahan, Jerome Guest, Todd Wales, Thayne Bedenkop, Daniele Eller, Cindy Peebles (Council Representative), Mike Lippert (Staff Representative), Nathan Niklowski.

Minutes of March 26, 2025

Minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business:

1. Stearns Woods Nature Preserve Updates/Wildflower Walks – The two wildflower walks each had 4 participants. The first event originally had 15 people signed up, but there were several no-shows – probably due to the weather. There was a discussion regarding notification of participants in the event of cancellation. Also, UFBC was concerned with people signing up and not attending, thereby taking a spot that someone else could have used. It appears the publicity is helpful as some of the participants came from outside Wyoming. Additional publicity of environmental groups such as the Mill Creek Alliance, Cardinal Land Conservancy and Western Wildlife Corridor could also be considered. Publicity could also stress how unique and special Stearns Woods is with its biodiversity.

Some maintenance work continued at Stearns including honeysuckle and garlic mustard removal. The Mill Creek Alliance facilitated past Stearns Woods improvements so it should be on an “adopt a spot” list for maintenance if we would like assistance. Apparently, Carol Trossett plans to continue her phenology study next year so she will likely be available again for wildflower walks.

There was more discussion on the city’s budgets for green areas and awards. The \$500 annual Green Areas budget is particularly concerning as that has not changed in 20 years and was set up before Stearns Woods was actively managed. Of course, obtaining grants and/or buying plants at reduced prices (or donated as from the Ohio Valley Forestry Fellowship) is desirable for the city as well.

2. Pesticide Application Training – All commission members were trained in pesticide applications so trained service people will be available at Stearns Woods’ invasive removal events.

3. Tree City USA banquet – The banquet is scheduled for tomorrow. Emily and Debby have done nearly all the planning. Flemming, Sheri, Gail, and Mike plan to attend to help with set-up/clean-up, etc.

4. Arbor Day – Arbor Day was celebrated today at Hilltop School. Over 60 kids participated. The proclamation was read with the scavenger hunt taking place immediately after. The scavenger hunt included identifying 6 trees.

5. Rain Garden Maintenance – UFBC plans to coordinate with ESC as has been done in the past. The timeframe for the work is tentatively planned for mid-May to mid-June –a firm date will be set after talking with ESC. Nathan indicated there could be some interest from high schoolers in helping with this work. Work usually takes 1-2 hours annually. It was suggested to reach out to the schools to encourage rain garden plantings as they rebuild several schools.

6. Annual Report to City Council – The PowerPoint is almost finished. UFBC is planning to present at the May City Council meeting.
7. Beautification Awards – The deadline for submissions will be the week before our June 18 meeting. The submissions will be presented at the June 18 meeting. Commission members will review the nominations over the summer and vote on winners at the August 27, 2025 meeting. Blurbs and photos will be due to Debby a month or so later, so we are ready for the October 20, 2025 City Council meeting. Eric will help with the photos.

Miscellaneous:

1. The girl scout troop which helped with the maple syrup project is interested in installing bat houses in Stearns Woods. UFBC will gladly work with them in locating and designing them. Bats help reduce mosquito populations.
2. On Saturday, May 3, Caldwell Park will host an event for Adopt a spot folks – 11 AM – 1 PM.
3. Gail is proceeding with some additional plantings at the Recreation Center circle. She would appreciate assistance this Sunday (1 PM).
4. Jerome reported that Tela is utilizing the maple syrup and will donate \$1 for each sale for plantings at Stearns Woods. Additional syrup has become available due to another batch.
5. Next meeting will be April 23, 2025.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert