

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
August 27, 2025

Members Present: Eric Moore, Clayton Monahan, Todd Wales, Jerome Guest , Gail Bason, Bill Felix, Flemming Holm, Cindy Peebles (Council Representative), Mike Lippert (Staff Representative)

Minutes of June 25, 2025 Minutes
were approved as written.

Resident Input:

1. Ren Austing, a resident of Wyoming, had expressed an interest in helping to manage invasive plants in Stearns Woods – possibly outside normally scheduled events. UFBC generally expressed support for him working in Stearns as long as work was in accordance with UFBC’s management plan and his “service person training” regarding pesticide application met UFBC’s standards. UFBC feels additional volunteers are always welcome at Stearns, especially experienced helpers such as Mr. Austing. UFBC also does not want to risk losing enthusiastic volunteers to other parks in the area. Mr. Austing could ultimately be a candidate for a UFBC position as well.

Old Business:

1. Beautification Awards – UFBC voted for the following properties to be awarded in 2025:

a. 79 Bonham	Architectural
b. 115 Linden	Urban Forestry
c. 416 Grove	Urban Forestry
d. 219 Charles	Landscaping
e. 581 Tohatchi	Landscaping
f. 41 Worthington	Landscaping
g. 24 Springfield Pike	Landscaping
h. Alternate – 102 Wentworth	Urban Forestry

Mr. Lippert will review the budget to determine if the city can award 7 or 8 plaques. Mr. Moore will meet with each owner and write up the blurbs. Mr. Wales will prepare the poster of winners.

Awards will be distributed at the October council meeting. Mr. Lippert noted he will be out of town, so UFBC members will need to announce and distribute the awards.

2. Stearns Woods Nature Preserve Updates –

- a. Taking Root Grant Update – The City received comments from Taking Root regarding our application. Essentially, Taking Root asked for records on recent plantings done at Stearns Woods. How many have survived? What kind of on-going maintenance continues? Etc. Wyoming does not have records at Stearns Woods such as these so it is unlikely the city will receive a grant.
- b. The trail relocation near Oliver is proceeding well. Mr. Moore suggested a minor reroute. It was also suggested to keep most of the existing trail at the Oliver entrance and loop the new trail to meet it. In view of recent progress, UFBC believes completion of the trail work this fall is possible.

3. Rain Garden Maintenance - No maintenance took place this year. UFBC discussed the importance of weed maintenance and will look into working with ESC in scheduling a maintenance event next spring.

New Business:

1. Trees on Private Property - Mr. Lippert noted the city's building department has reported some residents have very little knowledge of their responsibilities regarding trees – really private or public trees. Could UFBC prepare an educational document to put on the website? UFBC understands, but is concerned input could be considered legal advice or advice in dealing with insurance companies and be misunderstood.

Miscellaneous:

- a. Mr. Wales continues to be impressed with the city's tree selections. The city's arborist continues to impress. Mr. Wales also recommended the city be even more careful when planting as some new trees are leaning.
- b. UFBC requested a booth at Fall Festival. This will be discussed more at the next meeting. Maple syrup could be the give-away.
- c. Mr. Guest reported the Ohio River Foundation could be another source of funding and assistance for Stearns Woods' activities.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert