

Minutes
Urban Forestry & Beautification Commission
October 29, 2025

Members Present: Sheri Callaghan, Clayton Monahan, Daniele Eller, Jerome Guest, Gail Bason, Bill Felix, Jacob Sein, Cindy Peebles (Council Representative), Rusty Herzog (City Manager), Mike Lippert (Staff Representative)

Guests: Nathan Niklowski

Minutes of September 24, 2025

Minutes were approved

Old Business:

1. Beautification Awards -

Awards were announced at the October 20 City Council meeting. Since award plaques were not completed yet, award certificates were distributed. Only two awardees were not present. Plaques should be available later this week for distribution. More coordination with Historic Preservation was suggested as one property won two awards. There was also discussion on modifying the awards in the future.

2. Fall Festival -

Fall Festival was a success. UFBC raffled off a flower which was recently delivered and Stearns Woods maple syrup – which Mr. Lippert agreed to distribute shortly. Set-up and take down activities went smoothly. There was discussion on modifying the raffle tickets to include email addresses – which may help in getting volunteers for future Stearns Woods events.

3. Stearns Woods Maintenance Day Planning -

Two maintenance days are planned in November – November 9, noon-2:00 p.m. and November 15, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Glenway entrance improvement work is scheduled for November 9. The November 15 workday includes work on the new trail. Boy Scouts and/or high school kids could really be helpful in clearing the new trail. UFBC requested that the City remove a box elder tree hanging low over the old trail. It was suggested photos of these UFBC events be taken as well as a written summary of activities. This could help in future advertisements. Mr. Lippert will work with Ms. Dengler on announcing this work. UFBC was pleased the chain was removed at Glenway and a bollard installed instead.

4. Trail Diversion and Routing -

The new trail needs a lot of work but is findable/passable at this point. The fall work sessions should improve the trail substantially. It is planned the new trail will be essentially complete by spring. UFBC agreed to “loop” this new trail with the old trail rather than eliminate the old trail at this point. Wood chips would be desirable for trails.

New Business:

1. Budget:

- a. Mr. Herzog noted that UFBC does not have an annual budget. Specific requests should be made to him.
- b. Regarding UFBC's needs, Mr. Monahan noted that an outdoor lockable storage chest for tools, pesticide, etc. is desirable for Stearns Woods' workdays. Mr. Herzog agreed that the City could finance but needs detailed costs.
- c. The Ohio River Foundation's recent \$6,000 proposal for Stearns Woods' complete invasive removal was brought up. Mr. Herzog requested more detail, scheduling and planning. But, most importantly, he wants to make sure there is a realistic maintenance plan going forward to keep invasives down. He noted recent invasive removal projects in other areas have resulted in new invasive problems within months. In addition, neighbors along Glenway, in particular, have expressed concern about losing their screening buffer.

2. Miscellaneous:

- a. Mr. Lippert noted that the City has received input that the Wyoming weed ordinance could be updated. This issue will be discussed at a later meeting as to whether UFBC would like to be involved.
- b. Mr. Guest announced that another Girl Scout troop is interested in helping with Wyoming's tree tapping and maple syrup program in 2026. He also shared gelato made from paw paws from Stearns Woods.
- c. There was discussion on holding an educational event in the spring for the community. It could be coordinated with the Environmental Stewardship Commission. Trees and vines, tree stewardship, and street tree care are all topics that could be covered.
- d. Agenda items for December include seminar, "no-mow", and the annual UFBC work calendar as well as Stearns Woods progress update.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: Mike Lippert