

Minutes
TWNA Meeting
January 10, 2008

Steering Committee members present: Kathy Buchholz, Stan Carpenter, Curtis Goodson, Jeremy Gragert, Peter Hable, Duane Hookom, Rick Kayser, Sue Kayser, Pat Kurtenbach, Jim Massey. Bob Schwartz, Catherine Sinkewicz.

Other Attendees: Carlyn Conway, Jan Etnier, Bernie Hoefgen, Karla Hoefgen, Brian Larson, Mary Mickel, Cheryl Muller, Marie Past, Crispin Pierce.

The meeting was called to order at 7.00 P.M. by Vice Chair Catherine Sinkewicz. Chair Stan Carpenter would arrive later in the meeting.

1. Guest Speaker Todd Chwala: Catherine introduced Todd Chwala who is Head Forester for the City of Eau Claire. Mr. Chwala received a Bachelors Degree in Forestry from UWSP. He worked for the DNR, and as an arborist in Chippewa Falls before coming to Eau Claire nearly 4 years ago. Mr. Chwala explained that his predecessor, Rod Schmidt had instituted university credentialing for arborists during his tenure. In Eau Claire, we have 3 certified arborists, and the 4th arborist will soon be certified. Arborists are required to have college degrees, and have risen to the top of the pay scale.

Eau Claire has an Urban Forestry Grant, which will ultimately result in computerized records of all city trees. Currently over 25,000 trees have been catalogued, as to location, age, species and condition. This year our arborists will file a management plan with the DNR, though it will take 7-10 years for the complete management program to be in place. The program will specify pruning dates for individual trees, and highlight trees at risk, among other things.

In 2007, over 300 seedlings, and 400 boulevard trees were planted. Citizens received rebates to plant 141 trees. The City can distribute 300 citizen rebates of up to \$60.00 each year. The rebate is limited to two trees per parcel. The arborists encourage residents to plant a variety of trees on boulevards. They are trying to get a way from the monoculture of Ash trees, and recommend a mix of Freeman Maple, Swamp Oak, Baumannii Horse Chestnut, and a new disease resistant American Elm. The air space above trees on boulevards belongs to the public utilities, and it is best to plant low growing tree under power lines. When a street project begins, the arborists use a GIS inventory of sewer laterals, and they can forecast tree conflicts from the computer model. Each street project has money to replant boulevard trees.

In addition to boulevards, the Forestry department serves other areas such as flagpoles, cemeteries, and parks. Wilson Park maples suffered from the last three years of drought, and some trees will need to be removed.

Forestry has also been working with sub-developments, and hopes to require this of developers in the future. Last year 186 trees were removed in developments, and 700 new trees were planted.

Todd Chwala welcomes questions or communications you have regarding the Forestry Department in Eau Claire. He also said it is possible to ride along with an arborist if you are interested in a particular project. He may be contacted at: todd.chwala@ci.eau-claire.wi.us

2. The minutes of the November 8, 2007 meeting were approved.
3. The treasurer's report: We now have a balance of \$767.47. The newsletter recently distributed cost \$249.56. We still have a grant for the newspaper and Curt will inquire if we need to reapply.
4. Newsletter Committee: The Newsletter was delivered before Christmas. The jazz band picture and house picture were well received, and there were many positive comments on the inclusion of pictures in this issue. The next issue will feature Spring elections. We will ask Todd Chwala to write an article. Brian Larson suggested an article on pedestrian crossing education and enforcement. Duane Hookom volunteered to write it. Jeremy Gragert will write an article about how to catch a bus in the neighborhood. John Guettinger from the City requested we include an article on snow removal in our Fall Newsletter.
5. Parks and Winter activities: Bob Schwartz reported the rinks were closed but are open again. He hopes to get a couple of skating parties in. He is also planning an end of school party at Demmler Park, and would like to hire a band.
6. Future Program and Motion: Ken Fulgione suggested we combine with The Randall Park Neighborhood Association and invite Pat Ivory of The Historical Preservation Society to be the speaker. The meeting could be held at the Museum in April. In addition to the Neighborhood Associations, we would invite members of The Historic Preservation Society, Landmarks Commission, and Museum members. Catherine Sinkewicz will help with this. A motion was passed to hold this event.
7. Thorpe Drive: A poll taken by Luanne Coy, showed all neighbors adjacent to Thorpe Drive are in favor of closing Thorpe Drive. Stan has discussed this with City Council Member Tom Kemp, and it is in the works.
8. State Street Development: The development by Cary Osborn on State Street has been dropped because of strong objection to it at the November 8th meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8.30 pm. Kathy Buchholz., Secretary