

City of Baraboo
Arboretum Sub-Committee
Minutes
September 14, 2015

Present: Roy Franzen, Marcy Huffaker, Todd Pershe, Bruce Stewart & Mike Hardy

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:15PM. Legal Posting of the Agenda had been met.

Introductions: Members introduced themselves. Hardy explained that Serge Koenig had a prior commitment and could not attend, however he toured the future arboretum site before the meeting and provided some good feedback and has expressed interest in assisting with arboretum development.

New Business:

Hardy discussed timelines needed to meet the goal of presenting a conceptual plan to the public for Arbor Day/Earth Day 2016. He also noted that any action this sub-committee takes is subject to approval by the Parks Commission, who oversees this group. Members were selected for their expertise in areas the Commission felt would help staff design a nice addition to Maxwell-Potter Conservancy. Hardy thanked members for agreeing to help develop the arboretum.

Pershe noted that the first phase of development should be to remove invasive plants from the site. On the tour of the parcel, he didn't notice a terribly significant amount that needed to be removed, but enough that he felt he could remove with a couple of volunteers in a few days if the City could remove and dispose of the debris. Hardy agreed that if volunteers were able to remove/treat the invasive plants from the ground, he would have park staff dispose of the waste. Stewart added that once the parcel was cleared of some of the invasives, we would have an easier time to begin work on the conceptual plan. Huffaker added that trees needing to be removed could be marked for removal at this time too to provide a clean slate. Hardy can have forestry staff remove trees the committee determines should be removed.

Considerable discussion took place on trail building and placement. Materials desired were more of a natural design – like wood chips or gravel. Franzen reminded members that the trail must be ADA accessible and we will be watched closely on that. Members favored crushed red granite. Hardy will check into availability and pricing.

Hardy stated that the City had set aside \$4,500 in previous donations to be used as seed money for the arboretum. He also noted that the deadline for Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry grants is October 1st, and if we wanted to apply for the matching grant, we would need some direction soon.

Members suggested meeting at the site in the next week or so to take another walk through to get a better idea of trail locations. Hardy will contact Koenig and find a time that works for everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm

Respectfully Submitted – Mike Hardy, City Forester