

## Urban Landscape Commission Minutes

February 23, 2011

Attendees: K. Hurst, M. Maupin, B. Bowers, S. Poulson, J. Selin

We did not have a quorum so we could not approve previous minutes or vote on any issues. The agenda topics were discussed.

Spruce Street Marketplace:

The Marketplace plans have been reviewed by members of the ULC. Some of our members have made comments to the city. The City Engineer for the project would like the Commission to determine what should be done with the trees at this site. (The options are: 1) move them or 2) remove them and purchase replacement trees to be sited in other public spaces. The Tree Board met specifically to address this issue on Tuesday, February 15, and decided to try to save the trees and try to place them at Heritage Park or in the tree wells in town where trees have died. Another possibility is the parking lot behind the Gelato store on High St. There are nine trees involved and the Tree Board will look at this more at their next meeting. A list of locations will be submitted to the City Engineer's office. It was also recommended that the trees be transplanted before the first of April to give them a better chance of survival.

City Manager Visit:

The new City Manager visited with the Commission and talked about the 2011-2012 budget and its impact on the Commission. The budget will be consistent at this time. Our City Representative will meet with the Finance Dept. tomorrow to discuss her request for help needed for the summer months. **\$40,000 would be consistent with last year's budget for the ULC. \$25,000 of that will go to our Representative whose responsibility is all the baskets and many other planting sites throughout the city. \$20,000 will be allotted for labor/tree board maintenance. The 3 line items in the budget would be:**

- . **25,725 (25,000) – Urban Landscape supplies**
- . **10,000 – Urban forestry**
- . **5,000 - ULC new projects**

We talked about the physical space needed (**for the storage of the Urban Landscape Office's staff.**) by our Representative – the decision was to continue to pursue a partnership with BOPARC at the White Park location.

The City manager told us that there will be a 5-year capital improvement plan developed. The Commission will submit items for inclusion in the plan (i.e., new bldg. for landscape supplies, a new truck, etc.). The plan will be **ada(o)pted** by City Council in the next few months.

Project Site Report:

Airport Landscape: Our Chair is meeting with the Airport Manager next week. There are still issues with **(the "cat lady" and)** moving the stray cats from the Airport property. (This non-movement is causing a stop to **moving** shrubs and in addition, there **(is a question about whether there)** will be some utility

work taking place (**for a while**) on the airport property.) Our (**The ULC**) Chair will check on the status of the airport projects.

South University Islands: There is an issue with the planting of the blue fescue – many are dying. The Contractor, (Biafore's **Landscapes**), have had the contract in the past and seem to be reasonable. We will have the **dead** fescue removed and have (new material) planted **new material** – suggested (suggestions were; coreopsis, cat mint, little mitten grass). We are looking for things that will withstand the salt and cinders that are heaped on them during the winter.

The commission would recommend the coreopsis as the replacement plant.

Turf treatment – the contractor does 3 treatments yearly. To make it effective, we need a different mowing schedule – they (Public Works) **need to not** (tends to) mow the grass too low. We will approach Mr. Rumble's (name?) replacement and check on changing the schedule. We (It was) agreed to drop the turf treatment for a year and see if the mowing change will help the growth along this area. **We** (It was also) agreed to continue with the herbicide. (**This will need to be voted on at the next meeting at which there is a quorum.**) It was suggested that if the speed limit in that area could be reduced to 35 MPH, (possibly then trees could be planted in the islands) **we could plant trees** because we wouldn't have **the** (a)“line of site” issue. (That will have to be addressed with the DOH and the City Engr's Office.)

Morgantown Downtown Connectors: This is now a (WVU) Senior landscape project. There will be a final presentation the week of April 18 at the Ag Science Bldg. The hope (goal) is to pull people into the downtown area.(from the adjacent neighborhoods and the rail-trail and its connectors)

Rawley Lane Project: this project is (pending approval of the Trail Grant request that has been submitted by the City of Morgantown.) on hold. We will have an update at our next meeting.

Grant Ave Project: Sunnyside Up – wants us to look at the next phase of the project.

Proud of our Town: We will look at whether the Advantage Health building and grounds on the corner of Burroughs and Van Voorhis is in the city in anticipation of presenting them with a Spring (**Proud of Our Town**) award.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.