

**Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council Meeting Minutes**  
**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, January 10, 2012**  
**Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines**

Present: John Batt, Matt Brewer, Emma Bruemmer, Kevin Conn, Ralph Conner, Jeff Iles, David Jahn, Brandt Jelken, Chris Johnson, Patty Petersen, Jesse Randall (phone), Terry Robinson, Tom Rosburg, CJ Stephens, Paul Tauke, Jan Thompson, Mark Vitosh, Laura Wagner

Called to order at 11:00

Subcommittee Reports –

Goal 1: Build public support of urban forestry – see handouts/PowerPoint presentation for full update. Discussion – there previously was a Council website hosted by ISU.

Goal 2: Expand urban and community forestry education – the Community Tree Stewards program stopped when the community forestry extension position at ISU was eliminated. There was a desire to see this program brought back. Many workshops are put on around the state by council members, but they are often focused on a fairly narrow clientele, location, or topic. Other conferences take place, like Shade Tree Short Course, Midwestern ISA conference, etc. However, many of the one-pagers produced by ISU have become out of date, and there is a need for more education for the public. Discussion - the education holes include the public, finding reference information (the Shade Tree website (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/Forestry/UrbanForestry.aspx>) hosted by the DNR is existing and available as a clearinghouse for publications and can be linked to from the Council webpage). Videos can also be used as a great tool and can be added to the Shade Tree website. Jesse indicated there will be 2012 Community Tree Steward classes taking place May 1-June 12 in Polk County, and in the fall in Hamilton and Webster Counties. It was mentioned that the volunteer groups need revitalized, and we need to focus on education with these groups because it's critical that as they become more active, they are using proper techniques in their activities.

The issue of money came up, and how everything we're contemplating requires money to accomplish.

Goal 3: Expand and nurture volunteer participation - It's important to increase the number of nominations in each award category. We'd also support nominating tree-related volunteers for other awards programs (Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, etc.), encourage communities to bring local media to the awards luncheon, and better utilize social media. As for nurturing Council members, the committee felt it would be important to keep the committee work moving.

Discussion – Council members should put together a bio so that other members know who everyone is and can utilize things that others can offer.

Goal 4: Protect and enhance urban forest resource – see handout for details. Discussion – the prospect of becoming a non-profit would allow the Council to accept funding to work towards the goals.

Bylaws, knowing who can vote – we have not been following the bylaws for who can vote. To clarify, DNR employees are non-voting members. In order to maintain a quorum, a point of discussion is what our standard is for who is active (if a member cannot/has not been attending for a certain amount of time, we'd like to find someone to represent that particular affiliation who can be active). A roster was circulated for attending members to select which affiliation they best fit into, and Emma will be assigning everyone an affiliation. We need to get to where we can achieve a quorum, fill the roster slots, and meet the federal requirements for the Council.

Also, the strategic planning process needs to be completed by October and include a date that it was approved by the Council. This will need to be done at the July meeting.

Discussion – there was discussion about becoming a 501(c)3 and the need for the Council to maintain an independent identity in light of Trees Forever's (Patty) offer to serve the non-profit role for the Council. Tabled until a future meeting.

Forester Update – Forest Service Competitive funding grant results will likely be announced in early April. Also, the federal funding to support urban forestry is being cut about 2% for FY12. Forest Health funding is dropping by about 1/3. On the state level, the governor released his budget today, which seems to be about status quo. The Forestry Coalition will be pushing a couple of issues this legislative session. The nursery had a tough year and there are some changes taking place that will hopefully improve things going forward.

Patty added that Forestry Coalition Day at the Capitol is March 15, all are invited.

Voting on agenda items – will be done by email on the committee recommendations. Also, there was a request that the Council become part of the Forestry Coalition.

Introduction of newly appointed members – The Council welcomes the following new members. CJ Stephens (Des Moines) will be an at-large member. Kevin Conn (OPN Architects, Des Moines) will be representing the American Society of Landscape Architects. Tom Rosburg (Drake University, Des Moines) will be representing the educator category. Joining the Council but not present will be at-large member Stephanie Houk Sheetz (Senior Planner, City of Fort Dodge), and John Hanika (Nodaway Valley Tree Farm, Orient) representing the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association.

Luncheon – the annual awards luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 17 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Johnston. Awards nominations will be due Feb. 20. Anyone interested in scoring the awards nominations should contact Patty. CJ, Kevin, and Emma offered to help score the nominations. Also, if interested in planning the luncheon details, please contact Patty. Please plan to arrive early to help set up for the luncheon. Also, each Council member can invite one person to bring – hopefully someone who should be exposed to urban forestry and the positive things highlighted at the luncheon. Emma and Patty will provide a budget for the luncheon to the Council.

Adjourned at 1:47

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 for 30 minutes immediately following the luncheon.**