

CORE Minutes-September 1,2020

Zoom Meeting – 6pm

Attendees: Rick Mercier, Bill Horn, Shaun and Dawn Borden, Jill Worthington, Annette Kruzic, Ian Sweet, Robert Sweet, Sue Gurley, Kayla Williams, Keiko Boyne, Paul Jeffers, Kayla Stewart, Debbie Klosowski, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes from August meeting- approved with a correction

Volunteer/admin hours – report to Kris any hours doing Orchard business such as the work Jill has done on handouts, pick up boxes for harvesting, contacting vendors. The barn will have Orchard hours on volunteer sign in sheets. If you forgot to sign in when working in the orchard email me your orchard hours also.

Treasurer's Report- \$15,104.94, Rick clarified that the CITY has changed the spray billing. The orchard is being billed a percentage of each spray. There have been 5 sprays.

Staff Report-Minor leaks in irrigation has been corrected. The city has been contacted by an individual to possibly donate a bench or picnic table to the Orchard.

Website Updates –Debbie updates completed

Tree Maintenance

-Spray Update/spray for fall? –Rick 5 sprays have been completed. Question was asked how does Washington Tree Services spray the High Density Area? Rick will check with Debra Sage.

-High density/tour tree harvest – This activity was completed with help from several individuals. Thank you

-UP Food Bank- the local food bank received 20 boxes plus 10 boxes to Olympia food bank. As planned - several bags of apples were set-aside for adopters that had a poor harvest or no apples from their trees. We have had tree even if marked that were picked clean by other individuals.

-Gleaners-September 8th and 9th gleaners will be in the orchard. They respect the do not pick signs.

-Community groups – Rick put out the word to local garden groups. Rick helped pickers in the orchard. There was confusion on the definition of marked trees plus can they pick from trees with adopters names on them. The group discussed rewording the signs.

-Windfall pick up-Discussed setting aside a day for pick up. However, we need to work within the city guidelines for Covid-19. We will remind adopters every 2 weeks to help with the pick up. We will let them know that this activity helps prevent the development of insects that would affect the quality of next years crop.

Tree Adoptions

-Adoption update: Next year there will be two ways to apply on line or with paper. Payment will still need to be sent in before the tree assignment can be confirmed. We may have had 2 or 3 adoptions in August. Debbie proposed that we reconsider when to cut off adoptions. In the past years cut off for adoptions was 5/31st. Core voted for a new cut off for the next season of 7/31/21. The adoption rate after that date would be the Orchard Supporter amount of \$70.

-Complaints have been received that adopters are not cleaning windfalls or harvesting their crops. We noted this was a unique year with COVID-19. Kayla W suggested that we promote on social media that adoptions aren't the only way to support the orchard. Currently, you would have to obtain an adoption application before you were aware of the Booster or benefactor options. This is suggestion gives individual an option to support the Orchard without adopting a tree.

-Tree Tags – Dave

Suggestions for next year

- Dumpster removal** after all windfalls gone?
- Tape/signage removal?** –We will remove them when in the orchard and observe all apples are gone.
- Adopter feedback on their fruit quality**- CORE felt feedback on the quality of the fruit was important information. Kayla W will look in database for last year's questions.

High Density Signage

- QR Codes** – Dave was unable to attend the meeting but sent a message on his progress. He has talked with John's Trophies. He is having a sample QR code button produced for the orchard.
- Barry's Tree Signs** –inserts on ordering the optional wood signs will be included with adoption letters.

TOUR Coordinator– Jill asked for Feedback on “Curran Apple Tours” and “Curran Apple Orchard self tours” which she had developed in preparation for tours and to use in lieu of guided tours. These documents were very impressive and thorough. Our feedback will be added to the documents. The Self Tour document will help during COVID restrictions. Jill is looking to add the self-tour to the website.

CORE Fall Issues:

- On line pruning instruction**-check out Carol O'Meara video on Apple Tree Pruning 9:48 minutes. October meeting would like feedback from the group on the video.
- 2021 Calendar**- work on dates in October for next year
- Revisions to Adoption brochure??** -October
- Mailing schedule?** Or should we try email first?
- CORE Banner**-October meeting
- Pruning Banner??** -October meeting

Next meeting: Tuesday October 6 Zoom 6PM