

CORE February Minutes 2025

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

6pm -8pm

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

3609 Market Place W – take elevator up to 2nd floor

Attendee: Monty Stranski, Tony West (Operation Manager 4 City), Debbie Klosowski, Sue Gurley, Jill Worthington, Barry Crust, Rich Knowles, Rick Mercier, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes with a correction Minutes were approved

Treasurer's Report Balance \$18,847.28

Volunteer Hours – Orchard hours 63.27

Staff Report- Tony- Sprays/storm drain construction status/Fence Updates/other-- The storm drain project completion has been delayed due to damaged pipes. This means to CORE's second dumpster may be delayed in arrival as Pipes are still in the same area. Tony contacted the city engineer they will push back the pipes so we can deposit branches down where the dumpster would be located. Tony's crew with backhoe will pick up the branch piles on Monday after pruning parties. The 2nd Pruning Party is schedule for the 15th of February. First Spray for this year was done on January 17th which was the Dormant oil spray.

Website - All the corrections pointed out by Jill have been completed.

Adoption Updates

Kris- Trees adopted to date – number of tree -116 paid adoptions, 3 free trees, 6 tour trees
Number of Requests for Core to prune trees? 61 (new one arrived after meeting)

Tree tags- Barry and Rich They are caught up so will be addressing the signs that have darkened with age. Green dots have been placed on tree signs to designate trees that the adopters have agreed to prune . The green dot will alert CORE what trees are not pruned. A reminder notice can be sent out to remind the adopter to prune or find out their plan to prune. They can alert us if they need help in terms of some pruning mentoring.

Debbie/Rich-access to Gmail has been resolved by Rich. This is for communication from public and used to transmit information to adopters. Jill, Rich, Kayla S, & Debbie have access. Kris can send agenda to Kayla S to distribute to adopter and minutes when approved. Keeping the adopters informed could hopefully lead them to join CORE. Maps of orchard are in the cloud which will be the updated versions.

Pruning Lists Process- There are currently 61 adopters paying \$80 for CORE to prune. There will be a list in the barn and on the outside of the barn. Eventually, we will be housing the lists on the outside in same box that Barry set up for the volunteer sign in. To manage and confirm availability of trees to prune, we would like you to initial when taking a tree(s) to prune. The Park is open daily so volunteer pruners can prune when it works for volunteers schedule. When you are completed pruning the tree(s)cross off the tree . It will be helpful knowing what trees are being worked on along with which ones are completed. The list will also document which trees are being done by Family Tree. We are interested in getting the trees done not how long it takes as each tree is unique.

***PRUNING Parties-**

-Feb 1 -We had 2 hours of good weather before the rain. We had very few adopters. There was 1 High School student. He worked hard. Curtis does have the orchard listed on their volunteer site which was confirmed by Jill. Curtis have been informed of the volunteer High School contest to earn a Tree based on the most volunteer hours earned in the orchard.

-Upcoming parties: Feb 15, 22 and March 1, 15 and 29 10-1 treats will be provided by CORE. We have a lot left from FEB 1 due to low turnout.

-publicity/Banners- Debbie written word, Sue banners, and Kayla Stewart social media -Sue thank you for obtaining the pruning banner.

-Barry stated helps him pull the tarps when loading the tarp to have branches be lined up top to bottom, thick to thin ends and all going the same way. It is easier to pull when it is organized as he suggested. This would be helpful for all the adopter pulling their own tarps follow his suggestions.

Paid Pruning Assistance-Robt Sweet/Jessica Hannity?-During the last meeting, Debbie said she would come back to discuss paying for help with pruning when needed. She opened discussion of paying for pruning assistance. Due to the volume of CORE pruning trees of 61 plus some bad looking unadopted trees, it was deemed necessary. The proposal is to bring back Family Tree Care which was agreed upon by the CORE. They can address the height of the trees better as can use ladders. They clean up their trimming. We can supplement with a contract with Robert and Ian. It was suggested to have Jessica trim a tree to assess her style. Debbie will put together a list of trees that need height reduction plus trees that are out of control. Debbie will obtain each contracts estimate. Debbie will then ask CORE to approve before initiating a contract for any one of them.

High Density Assistance and Espalier- We still need help in this area. Weeding, Pruning, mulching and thinning is needed to improve the quality of the fruit. We will be monitoring for apple maggots and codling moth this year.

Rootstock/grafting

Email adopters re Grafting Process- Spring Grafting Show(Saturday March 15 from 10 to 4) Sponsored by the Peninsula Fruit Club at the West Side Improvement Club, 4109 W."E" St. Bremerton.

-Andy Matelich will pick up rootstock for us. He has not picked up the rootstock yet. He will hold a grafting session to maximum 6 people at what location, date and time? To be determined

***NEW Tree Arrival**-Debbie Locations? 4 trees coming. 2 Crab Apples as pollinators, 1 William Pride, and 1 Wynoochee Early. These last two are from the early season bloomer group which makes them their pollinator. They need be near each other to answer Debbie's question about location. Same group that we will find the Gravensteins but they are not a pollinator. Dologo Crab Trees are in the early-to midseason bloom group there are pollinators are a few pollinators in the orchard. They are Akane, Chehalis, Liberty and Dologo. These would be guidelines for placement. Mid to Late Summer blooming group we will find the Wolf River and the Honey Crisp. This information is from the Raintree Nursery website.(see attachment from the website) Tony has assured us the new trees will be part of the irrigation system. We anticipated at least 2 King trees in future after grafting. The Scion wood used is the size of a pencil so need to remain in pots for at least another year. Rick is looking for someone to take over his foster trees for the next phase of their growth period. There was further discussion on what we will need to purchase to protect the trees from the deer, rabbits and other animal life. The city can provide the post. We will need to get chicken wire and Hog wire. We debated the height. The new honey crisp's wire needs to be out further at least 6 ft. per input from the group. Rick has the assignment of exploring the cost and size of the wires suggested. Barry suggested going to Habitat 4 Humanity. CORE approved Rick to purchase Hogwire for \$140. The trees are to arrive this month.

Insect Traps- Debbie says insect traps have arrived still waiting for the Lures.

Horse Statute sign -Barry Kudos for a great job on the sign asking children not to climb on Brewster.

Reminder- Sally Barretts funeral will be February 7th. Sally and her husband were there in the beginning of CORE and Orchard. They were instrumental in the research and CORE's purchase of our electric cider presses.
Other?

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 4th 6 – 8 pm either in person or by Microsoft team access codes on top of agenda.