CORE Minutes September 2026

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

6pm -8pm

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees in person and online: Lynsie Patschke, Jackson Guzzo (Park Maintenance Lead), Debbie Klosowski, Sunny Rullman, Bill Horn, Barry Crust, Rich Knowles, Rick Mercier, Asuka Ludden, David Emery, Liam Osborne troop 299

Approval of Minutes 8/26 approved

Treasurer's Report -balance $19,168.37 which includes $ 577 earned from the sale of Jugs and Apples at Cider Squeeze. In addition, the orchard received a $79 donation. We do not have the expenses from the squeeze turned in yet. City Shows the adoption totals as $3,815.00. Those figures did not seem correct. Rich, and Sue did a thorough review of adoption fees and expenses. Debbie suggested Rich, and Sue look at our figure's vs city regarding total adoption fees from November 2025 through July 2026.

Staff Report: Fence completed on Grandview to Rock Road mid-July, end of October the next spray, broken pear branches not done by the city**.** Geese issue their deposits in the orchard. Asuka and her dog do a lot of herding. **Volunteer Hours**-I Located the sign in sheets from the squeeze after the September meeting. It is my recommendation we use sign in sheets solely for sign in. I am required to send the sign in sheets to the city to pay L&I for people that worked in the Orchard. I needed to do a coversheet to explain names with no hours that were future volunteers. There were **402.05**.orchard hours for August. 150 tree-12 free trees+ 138 trees in pay status

Guest- Eagle Scout candidate Liam Osborne-He was requesting a project himself and for 15 others scouts of various ages. Due to the age of the scouts, he does not want any project using power tools. Debbie proposed to Liam for his review working on Bee houses, planting eight 2-year-old trees, constructing 6 ft fences around the trees to protect trees from the deer, replacing several row markers and mulching around the trees. Liam chose planting ,erecting fences replacing several row markers and mulching the trees for the other scouts. Rich pointed out transferring mulch in wheel barrel is hard work. Liam said there will be adults working with the scouts. Rich will work with Liam. We do ask if the scout can contribute material through donations for their project. We will need for 4 x 4 ground contact pressure treated wood for the markers. We will check what the city has available for fencing. We asked Jackson to check for steel Poles. If necessary, we can purchase what is needed. He would like to do the projects the Saturday(November 21st)before Thanksgiving. Debbie said that would be fine. Liam will return for approval of his plans.

Eagle Scout Proposal-Barry-Rich and I are considering putting up new tree signs for the coming season. We will be needing 1", 1 1/4", or 1 1/2" PVC pipe to mount the signs and pound them into the ground. Minimum length should be 2 1/2'. We are hoping to have the Eagle Scouts take on this project……mainly sanding the old signs to use. If you or someone you know has accumulated surplus PVC pipe that we could use. Debbie suggested Barry's write up what could be sent out to the community to request volunteers and for PCV pipe by Kyla.

Cider Squeeze review-everyone felt positive about the squeeze

-Lynsie Evaluation Forms- reviewed the feedback from the email evaluation forms to community, volunteers, press operators and core. Feedback was good such as well-organized with friendly volunteers.

CORE -expenses (submit bills for reimbursement) Obtain a city of University Place mileage record form attach receipt of expenses. Since Sue is in Minnesota, get the form and receipts to Debbie;

-Questions: The group felt positive about the squeeze attendance. Publicity increased attendance.

We were asked about the Scope of next year's event as the squeeze was successful . What could help in the planning for next years?

Feedback was given to support next year's activity plans.

1.Volunteer and appointment tables needed to be separated with as needed two check points
It was confusing for people checking in for appointments. We did not get time to promote adoptions

2. Return to 2 bags of apples vs 4 along with bring back quart jugs (2months of minutes said that 2)
*Add a gallon and ½ was always welcomed and would save apples for others

3. Several walk-ins read the publicity and interpreted it was "harvest" day picking

4. Coffee for volunteers next year

5. Better pitchers at pouring stations

6. More pouring tables at least 4, cheese cloth larger funnels and pour spouts

7. Feedback that trees were stripped which could have occurred prior to squeeze or attributed to the to the weather causing premature windfalls.
*El Nino is expected in 2027 which could add bugs, smaller apples and increased irrigation

8. Request donations from walk ins not adopters to support the orchard. The group discussed how to present the request and suggested posting a $20 donation amount. It could be used as a Fund raiser to help support the orchard. Return to using two bags of apples from any unmarked tree. Based on this year's positive community experience, we expect more walk-ins next year. Advertise that attendees can bring their own jugs from home. This is alternative to the $40 figure.

9.Portapottie needed dumping prior to the squeeze. Based on attendance may want to consider additional ones. In attendance there were 110 chips turned in to squeeze which does not account for spouses, children and volunteers. Expanded use of publicity brought more people.

Insect Update-Rich High-density status and nylon footie High-density status and nylon footies: Rich reported that codling moth numbers remain high. Eliminating insects through Quality inspections help secure good-tasting cider. To control the insects, there was a suggestion to use of nylon footies or spraying kaolin clay, sold as "Surround." Both methods are time-consuming, and Surround must be reapplied after heavy rain. City will consider an additional spray and testing the footies on the high-density trees

T-shirt/tote sales-Lynsie

In October we should plan on a holiday push for sale of the Bon-Fire products? Medium is back in stock. We have earned $278 from T-shirts and totes so far.

Concert Review- The last one got raves reviews

Tours—upcoming dates (Kelly)-postponed as Kelly and Kay not at meeting

Miscellaneous

Battery Powered Wheelbarrow-Rich-testing another

Bee Update- Rick he will be cleaning them for storage in October for two months. You are welcome to come to his garage to see the process. The Big news is a product developed by Rick to rid Houdini flies from Bee houses. They will be testing 50 this year and next year 500 will be available.

Curtis HS student-community transitional programs working weekly in the orchard with his teacher. He enjoys manual work.

Monty-will be dropping out of CORE due to time constraints

October Items

-Finalize 2027 Adoption brochure/event dates Rich will be setting out brochures without the old application

-FRUIT REMOVAL DEADLINE?

-Hire outside pruners?
-2027 volunteer needs
-Tree Planting and location- Rich gave a map for planning of tree planting so they are near pollinators.

Rich-Steilacoom Apple Squeeze Event contacted asking him to participate at their 50th apple squeeze. Question can the Core presses be used outside of UP- liability. They are CORE purchased presses.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 6pm-8pm