

CORE January Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees: Debbie Klosowski, Bill Horn(master gardener), Monty Stranski, Rich Knowles, Tony West(Operations Manager) , Rick Mercier, Sue Gurley, Jill Worthington, Barry Crust, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes- December minutes approved

Treasurer's Report - 13,892 with 89,911 expenditures final balance \$18,935.43

Volunteer Hours – Orchard hour 65 for December (At beginning of month start new sheet vs adding to the last month)

Staff Report- Tony was asked for update on Storm drain work. He expects to be done by the end of January. Upon completion, Tony's crew can return to replacing the fence. The dumpster cannot be returned till the pipes are removed. Gates were replaced which look nice.

Spray Contract was awarded to the current contractor for next 3 years. They submitted their bid on the last day. Questions: Did the city have another bid for spraying? There were two bids. . They compared bids for each spray . The other bidder was higher than the current contractor. High Density has an insect problem. It has several varieties that ripen earlier than other varieties in the orchard. Tony said he wrote in the contract that they must enter all fenced in areas to conduct spraying. Tony pointed out when they spray the entire orchard is sprayed. High Density can not be sprayed separately. Tony was asked to give the dimension of the High-Density section. It is 75'x35' 2500 square feet

Website - Jill found **a date that needs to be added to the dates of pruning parties.**

Cub Scout inquiry. What could they do for the orchard with support of adults. They can pick up branches, help spread mulch noting there are piles at some of the trees. Consensus was that we need mulching in the High-density area which cub scouts could do with adults depositing the mulch. Jill volunteer to contact the leader and be available at the orchard for them.

Adoption Updates

- Trees adopted from November 1st to End of December was- 112 trees plus 4 free trees not counting four trees.
- Debbie provided a list by name and tree of those paying for Core pruning. The lists are in the barn and posted on the barn. When you complete the pruning make sure you cross off the tree completed. Three-hole binder needs to stay in the barn. Rich provided maps for trees to be pruned by core(green) plus a map showing adopted trees(yellow). A request was made to have the four trees identified. This will help identify trees not to be picked at the community harvest day. Jill has tours till mid-October
- McIntosh policy for future McIntosh assignments- due to having only 15 McIntosh it was decided only one per family.

***Tree Tags-** Barry and Rich will tag the trees that adopters are pruning. Barry has tags that can be used. They will be refurbishing the signs as over time have darkened. Barry thanked Rich for help when he was unavailable.

Maintenance

Professional pruning is it necessary this year? Debbie walked the orchard and recommended from her observation not needed. However, once we start working in the orchard, we can revisit this decision. Debbie hopes that Robert and Ian can take on the tall trees on the CORE list due to no ladders allowed in orchard. Rich proposed used a electric pole saw.

Insect traps- Debbie will be restocking the codling moth tents and lures in addition to apple maggot lures. There are plenty apples and Tanglefoot(pest barrier) for apple maggot control. This year monitoring of insects in orchard will include the High Density area. Screening of the apples for the adopter cider squeeze found a problem with apple maggots. Screeners did not see the apples eliminated before moving to the barn from the High-Density area. We will add codling moth tents to the High Density area along with apples with tanglefoot. There are other issues that may be attributed to the poor quality of the harvest in this area. This group of apples was planted with the purpose of

supporting the community cider squeeze which was abandoned due to the pandemic. Another contributing factor may be weeding and the need for mulch. Thinning can contribute to poor quality of fruit including size. Bill said using the hand between the thumb and little finger should be the distance between apples. This is about 6 to 8 inches between apples. Timely spraying would be helpful but as mentioned earlier any spray need to be done to whole Orchard at the same time. **Monitoring** will give clues about insect issue. Debbie will ask Reggie and Gillian if they can help in the High Density area. CORE approved the purchase of the necessary supplies by Debbie.

Identification of trees in the High-Density Area could also give us clues on when to spray. Monty has been working in the High-Density area and has identified issues: weeding and thinning as problems. During his time in High Density, he noticed the tags that identified need updating. Through research Monty proposed to the use of Impresso aluminum plant tags. They are easily written on while at the tree site. They will not mold. We can use these in the high density, Curran sign and Espalier. Core approved the purchase of 2 packs of 100 a piece.

Pruning guides need to be given to adopters who are pruning in the orchard. Group helped update the information on the back of the guides that were older editions.

Curran Apple Orchard 2025 volunteer opportunities-Debbie updated volunteer opportunities.

Kiosk Update-Debbie has updated Kiosk

Emails to 2025 adopters to address(upcoming parties, other activities and information)-Debbie will email adopters-new adopters will get this email with tree assignment letter. Here next email is scheduled for the end of January.

Pruning Banner Sue- it will be ready next week with all the dates.

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. Bill has taken the cutting from Rick's starts that he has been fostering for this year. They will be stored in Rick's refrigerator. They will be grafted to a m26 rootstock to maximize their height from 40 ft to maximum 15 ft.

-Spring will have several people demonstrating and grafting Core has contact Andy Matelich who has agreed to do the grafting for the Kings. He will pick up root stock that we will pay for. It is believed from Rick and Bill t the maximum to watch him would be 6 people. Remember Spring Grafting Show is another option for see how grafting is done.

Bill pointed out once the grafting is done, they should be put in a pot for a year. They are no bigger than a pencil currently. Rick says that his foster time is done. He would appreciate others taking care of the grafted stocks for next year. We started planning for the 6 new trees regarding the wire need to protect our new tree. We will need chicken wire and hog wire to protect them from deer. We will need pc pipe or something like that to protect the base of the tree from rodents such as rabbits.

Sign is needed near horse Statute. The story about the horse and family should have been closer. (Statue should be treated as tribute to Curran Family and should not be climbed on) Debbie asked Barry to come up with a sign about not allowing children to climb on statute.

Kris wants to buy Cosmic Crisp for the Orchard - Bill explained the process to get them viable for eating does not fit for the orchard. They were developed to be in the market when fresh apples are not available which requires them to be w stored in refrigeration not available to the public.

February 1st is the first pruning party. Core members need to be there. Bringing Goodies would be appreciated.

Nest Meeting: Tuesday, February 4th 6-8 pm either in person at City Hall or by Microsoft Team.

