

CORE October 2025 Minutes

Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees in person and online: Kay Thompson, Steve Thompson, Barry Crust, Rick Mercier(Mason Bee), Debbie Klosowski, Rich Knowles, Lysie Patsche(web master), Bill Horn (master gardener) Jessica Hannity, Gavin Graham Eagle Scout plus parents Tammy and Justin Graham, Kris Docherty, Jackson Gosso(park maintenance lead),Monty Stranski and Annie Ragin.

Approval of Minutes-no September meeting

Treasurer's Report \$14,305.33 current balance with two invoices coming in for pruning in the spring.

Volunteer Hours – Orchard hours July 59 , August 203.2, September 76

Staff Report- Last spray was done September 2nd. Final spray anthracnose scheduled for October based upon CORE preferred date. Irrigation has been checked and turned off last week. Banner has been removed. No updates on playground project. Fence board between Curran House and the orchard needs to be replaced or fixed.

Website - Lysie Patschke WIX renewal – not required at this time.

Eagle Scouts projects- Gavin Graham with Troop 299 suggested constructing benches near band stand. City must give approval. They had seen a bench with an Eagle Scout plaque on it. Jackson will check on this and get back to the Grahams. Mulching was another project Gavin want to do in the orchard. The problem with this suggestion is availability of mulch. Due to construction at the complex that houses City Hall, there is no available space to locate mulch. Last meeting Tony West – operation manager was going to see if he could get a tree service to dump at the lower part of the orchard. Core suggested that several of the posts that identify the rows need replacing or painted (white and red). . Another suggestion for a *group scout activity* would be removal of branches produced during the pruning parties. Rick Mercier suggested he could use help to restore or rebuild Bee houses. He also suggested a Bee pollination project as an Eagle scout project. Rick would provide a Bee House, nesting material and bees. The Grahams will investigate donations of wood, paint and mulch.

UP Historical Society- Barry and Kris attended their meeting which included a historical lecture of our community.

There was a small plane airport across from the Post Office. We saw the first council for University Place.

After the talk, historical society reps expressed an interest in coordinating dates and activities to increase attendance for both of our groups. The Museum will be opening on the first Saturday of the month 11-3. CORE needs information on how to direct people to access their building...perhaps an Aboard from the Historical Society? Debbie will invite them to our next meeting.

Tour Updates-Kay reported that she and Kelly did 10 tours for this season, some as a team and others solo.

They did address the climbing on trees as part of the tours. They approach the young folks by explaining they are old and need to be treated gently along with concerns about park visitor safety. In the last couple years, we have had major limb breaks. There will be a third tour guide next season Amy Assisi. Kay says the 3 of them are getting together shortly to work on preparation for next year. They would like us to advertise for a fourth so they can conduct tours as teams. Kay also requested an online calendar for them to schedule their tours and for people requesting to see what is available. Rich explained it can have a public access and private access. They have been overwhelmed with teacher requests to visit the orchard. Lynse will work for them to develop what meets their needs. Another enhancement will be to have their own email to receive requests rather than the general email account for the orchard. Kay also received approval for \$50 to buy future supplies; however, she must submit receipts. Lysie recommended "Do Not Climb Tree" signs for children and adults. We also need to inform people about the availability of pole pickers.

Cider Squeeze/Community Harvest Recap

What went well, what to improve? Lysie said that scheduling was a good tool for crowd control. She scheduled for 6 presses but only 4 available but we managed to get appointments in plus walk ins. As fund raiser, Lysie suggested selling merchandise such as Tee-shirt and tote bags. Kris suggested we need to develop a form that captures address for volunteers and documents the hours worked. We are required to report an orchard work with names and hour to the city to pay L&I to the state. Monty sent out a summary of the Cider Squeeze. Rich said they need more presses. They got a little backlogged. Also, move jug table closer to presses. They have a better idea the supplies needed for next year. We need better signage. They got positive feedback. Need better signs re Required Check in, directions to wash line, etc

Community Harvest Recap – Good turnout. We need to purchase more picking poles. Also **need a way for people to donate!**

2026 Adoption Brochure Updates

-Adopter renewal timeline/process/Finance credit card? City work on accepting credit card but not available till the first of the year.

-Revised Fees for adopter who want to prune their tree (\$65) and Core pruning the adopter's tree (\$125)

-2021 we added thinning to CORE pruning adopters. 136 adoptions 75 CORE prunes (includes four trees) Comparison of similar # adoptions (2016) 41 CORE 139 adoptions. All adopters will be responsible for fruit thinning in the future.

Fees increased due to significant number of people choosing Supporter/Gift Adoptions. We also have fewer volunteers showing up to prune and have had to hire outside arborists to help maintain the orchard.

-2026 Pruning Dates: **January 31, February 7 and 21 March 7,21, 28** Robert Sweet is available for the February and March dates. There are also instructions on Website. Core needs to be available at the pruning dates. Weekday instruction may be available upon request. Other dates **Cider Squeeze Sat, Aug. 22 and Sunday, Aug. 30** Community Harvest Day.

Updated Pruning Adopter requirements -If people sign up for Pruning Adoption, they must commit to pruning. They must email us when pruning is done and/or mark off their tree on clipboard outside barn. If they do not manage their tree, they will lose option to obtain a Pruning Adoption in the future.

***Work Party – Tuesday, Oct. 21** 2pm-5pm

Curtis HS students and others on Volunteer List will receive emails re upcoming work party to pick remaining fruit, remove tree tape and signs, insect traps and spread mulch if available. Debbie and Rich will be at the barn by 2pm All adopters will receive a "last call" email to pick fruit no later than Sat, Oct. 18 except for the Winter Bananas which are late harvesters.

***2026 Adoption Process**

Lysie and Debbie will revise 2026 adoption brochure, then send it out for printing. After the brochures arrive, Debbie will send out an email indicating that Adoption Brochures are in the mail. The adopters will also receive info about updated prices and responsibilities. Current adopters must return the application forms and payment to the City by **December 1st in order to guarantee keeping the same tree.** Lysie and Debbie will also work on updating the website after the brochures are sent to the printer.

Kris will process all existing adopter renewals through the month of December. **New adopters can submit applications and payment at any time; however, their tree assignments will be designated in January.**

All tree assignments will be sent via EMAIL ONLY along with future orchard updates.

***Miscellaneous Items**

-**Fundraising ideas** for future discussion: Possible Cider Squeeze charge? Curran Orchard TEE Shirts and tote bags—
Bring ideas and costs to next meeting.

-**Tree purchases** - Kris requested a dwarf honey crisp. Rick Mercier has 3 Melrose 5 Kings ready to be planted in 2027.
Discussion tabled for future.

--**Insect trap** order-Debbie will place the order for next season now

--**Apple Replacement** for the Brewster statue. Barry would like to see a replacement for the stolen bronze apple that was in the little girl's hand. Nothing that has been used as a replacement has survived more than a couple days. Replacement was quoted as \$1000. It also might take permission from artist as it alters the art. As much as we would like a replacement, the replacement cost is too prohibitive.

--Monty asked about **insurance liability** if we took one of our cider presses to other sites. Jackson will check this out.

--Mulch – CORE continued to express the need for mulch. Staff promised to look into options --Watch your feet in the orchard as 20 Canadian geese are at home in the orchard.

Next Meeting: Tuesday November 4th 6 pm-8pm