

CORE February 2026 Minutes

Tuesday, February 3, 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: Welcome Nhargara Hayes, Lysie Patschke, Tony West (operations manager), Sue Gurley, Bill Horn (master gardener), Rich Knowles, Barry Crust, Rick Mercier, Debbie Klosowski (chairperson), Jessica Hannity, David Emery, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes- January approved with a word correction

Treasurer's Report current balance \$21,391.43 which includes expenditures 609.95, which included signs and Barry's zip ties and signs

Volunteer Hours – Orchard hours were **156 hrs.** This included MLK work done by the Scout troop and the first pruning party.

Staff Report- 1st Spray was done on Friday the 16th. The 2nd spray which is a Scab spray will be done in February or March. Debbie asked that Tony make sure they do not spray on Saturday Pruning dates. Kelly was asked when the school tour will be done. April 30th as they want to be in the orchard when the trees are in bloom. Debbie did contact UP refuse to unload the two dumpsters. Barn light repaired which was requested at last meeting.

Website- Lysie Patschke-In December, Debbie and Lysie met to develop layout. Lysie spent hours starting to revamp the website which is now half done. She asked CORE for orchard pictures. She hopes to match pictures to the sections of the website which will show what is being discussed. She will be developing a document to be on website that will have frequently asked questions. When it is developed, she will route it to core for review prior to the next meeting. Other projects will be event calendars, schedule for the tour guides, calendar that shows tour dates available, and tour guides having their own Gmail account.

Adoptions- Kris deferred to Rich who has analyzed the effect of the new adoption fees. Rich looked at last year's adoptions and income versus the 2026 adoptions and income received not including donations. Total adoptions 106. How did the increased adoption fees effect renewals? Adopters moved from CORE pruning to doing their own pruning or they did not renew this year. 66 CORE Prunes last year 42 this year. Rich determined that we are \$900 ahead of last year not counting the donations which are up this year. Stats for this year were 106 adopted, 195 trees available, 19 trees that we do not receive income (tour trees, free trees plus 9 trees not adoptable.)

Monty did research over 4 years looking at adoption fees vs expenses for each year. Due to the need of outside pruning to help us maintain height, our expenses have been more than what was received from adoption fees. His conclusion the increased fees was the right decision.

Tree Tags -Barry has 79 tags completed and 14 to be done. Tags will be hung on trees by the end of the week. Barry and Rich intend to hang 80 tags on the trees that are not adopted. This will allow people to know what trees are available. Barry says he could use help sanding one side of old tags. He will be checking out other source of lumber for additional tags. He will be ready with tools for sanding by next pruning party. The tags to be sanded are in the back of the storage closet. He has available 4 sanders. Sanding of the signs is not limited to pruning parties.

Kiosk – Rich will be posting up dates of adopters and tree assignments weekly. We currently have 3-page list compared to last season which had 5 pages by the end of adoption period(7/31/25). There was a positive feeling our numbers will change by end of adoptions July 31st. 3 new applications arrived on February 6th. Rich says it is very challenging in rainy weather putting the paper lists in the kiosks.

PRUNING

-Family Tree Care -Based on how the city pays a reduction in our account balance will not show till end of the month approximately \$5000. Debbie asked for feedback from CORE on their height reduction tree work.

-Recap January 31st pruning party- it was a nice turn out from the adopters but no high school students. There were some community activities planned that probably involved the high school populations. Kelly asked about Liaison

expectations regarding working with the schools. Once you develop a contact person, you keep them aware the dates we will be working in the orchard. They put us on their website when we tell them that we need help. It appears that community service hour requirement is back as G-mails from the students say that flyers have identified the orchard as a place that needs volunteers.

-Future Pruning Party Feb 7, and 21

March 7, 21,28

– How do we handle pruning novices when Robert and Ian are not present or are focused on working on CORE pruning. Several of the CORE members are available to get them started. Debbie will make sure members assigned to the barn know where she is located. At the last pruning date, Monty helped adopters that arrived before 10 then followed up with them for additional help. The group decision was that CORE members would help adopter with the basics removing water sprouts, cross over limbs and the appropriate tools. For more advice later, Robert and Ian can be consulted by the adopters. Barn attendants can point out CORE vest wearing members for help when new adopters ask for help.

2 Lists of “To Be Pruned” Trees are available on the barn door for adopters and core pruning. In March there will be a review of the trees and the lists. An email will be sent to adopters reminding them that their assigned tree needs to be pruned by end of March. If Core pruning is not done, we will ask for help to finish that list. ADOPTERS should be reminded to sign volunteer list and when the tree is pruned. Core is here for support for anyone needing advice or help.

Who will be responsible of pruning -the sign, high Density and Belgium Espalier

-High Density-Patricia Stranski

-Belgium Fence- Sue Gurley

-Curran Tree sign-to be determined later

Debbie will be pruning during the week. She welcomes adopters during her time in the orchard. Adopters need to let her know if they would like to prune during when they need access to tools. Debbie will let them know when she is in the orchard. We had an inquiry on Gmail about weekday pruning. She did not have tools so coordinating with Debbie is important. Though, this was not mentioned in the meeting this could apply to high school students too. During the pruning season, Branches will be available to be removed,

***Orchard Events-** CORE member attendance should try to be in the orchard on pruning days to support adopters.

***Logo Design Contest Update-**Lynsie reviewed the process of working with BONFIRE as a profit-sharing venture. They ship the product. We discussed a contest to choose a new LOGO for merchandise tee shirts, tote bags, hats. Lynsie mentioned numbers of colors available up to 8. There was from several members mentioned that they liked our current tree used on our brochures and letterheads. We still could have the contest for designs for products. There was a suggestion of an art show on harvest day.

We were contacted by the Mayor of Dupont regard their orchard and volunteering trees. Historically an old orchard but smaller than ours. Debbie said we would be available to give them pruning tips. We are short on space for trees.

Barry-Mulch The current supply of mulch is not acceptable. It does not appear to have gone through a chipper. Tony said they would remove both piles. There was suggestion could it be used to build up the bottom of the orchard where the equipment was stored from water project.

Rick- needs two-gallon buckets for planting “the 8 trees” based on Bill’s recommendation for their 2nd year.

Monty wants us to pitch thinning!

Next meeting: Tuesday March 3rd, 2026 6-8pm

