

CORE Minutes

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

6-8pm

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees

In-person and online: Jackson Guzzo (Park Maintenance Lead), Rich Knowles, Kelly Radford, Kay Townsend, Steve Thompson, David Emery, Barry Crust, Debbie Klosowski (Chair), Lysie Patschke, Monty Stranski, Asuka Ludden, Gavin (Eagle Scout Project), Bill Horn (Master Gardener), Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with an edit regarding the conversation with the Mayor of Dupont—pruning tips will be provided.

Treasurer's Report

Sue conducted a review of revenue versus expenditures. Sue learned that CORE is no longer paying for one of the 7 sprays. Since 2019, pruning expenses have increased by 24% each year, with costs as follows:

2019 - \$1,496.00; 2021 - \$2,100; 2022 - \$4,400;
2023 - \$5,800; 2024 - \$6,100; 2025 - \$6,222.

The 2025 expenses were for Family Tree Care services along with two additional contracts with one invoice being submitted in 2026. Since volunteer pruners/CORE have been unable to prune all of the trees each year (the orchard has 195 trees in addition to the espalier and high-density areas), CORE has hired outside pruning assistance. Although not discussed at the meeting, the 2025 tree assignments focused on trees that were not adopted the previous year for new applications. To address increased pruning expenses, CORE revised 2026 adoption fees to \$65 for pruning adoptions and \$125 for orchard supporters.

Our current balance is \$16,885.36, ahead of last year despite fewer adoptions (42 adoptions did not renew). Debbie requested a comparison of last year's annual expenses compared to this year's anticipated expenses including Bees, Concerts, insect traps, Spray and Cider Squeeze by Sue. Rich pointed out even though the number of adoptions has decreased, our adoption revenue has increased. Monty pointed out that we finished the year 2025 at \$14,315.00. If we are paying for concerts \$2000. We really should have 14,885.36 which means we are below where we should be. The group agreed to review adoption fees for 2027 at a future meeting.

Volunteer Hours

A new individual is now handling L&I payments for the city. This person collects names from the volunteer sheet signed when working in the orchard. Those that support the orchard—through tree adoption and care, mulching, branch removal or weeding—are volunteers and are required to sign in when working in the orchard. The sign in sheet is located on the Barn door. Volunteers need to sign in with their full names, as the

form requires both a signature and printed name. Only initials or first names have been provided recently. I am waiting for a response from the new person regarding whether my entering a volunteer's name when the volunteer signs only affect L&I coverage and where to send parent releases. Orchard hours are important for city grants and City Tree status. All volunteers, whether attending a pruning event or working independently, should sign in and when leaving add their hours worked. One month only on the sign in sheets as I report monthly and send the signatures to the designated person monthly. In February, volunteers logged 147 orchard hours. Special recognition goes to Barry for logging the most hours.

Staff Report

Topics included mulch, playground, spray schedule, and credit card. Mulch has been returned to its previous location, and new piles are available at the orchard. The next spray is scheduled for March 9th. Roof Therapy will treat the Barn roof at no cost. They did this 10 years ago. Rick expressed concerns about the safety of the bees regarding treatment substances and plans on conducting his own tests on the Barn since bee production has decreased there. He felt there were changes after painting of the barn. Jackson will contact Roof Therapy for more information. Bees will be brought to the orchard at least a week after spraying and before bloom burst. Fence replacement on Grandview beginning. There will be no Fence replacement between orchard and Historical Museum. Debbie asked if Jackson knew about possible orchard filming by college students but he was unaware of the request.

Website

Lynsie had dedicated many hours to update the website. She would like feedback on how it works for everyone. It took a lot of planning and was a big overhaul. At this point, you can only view it on a desktop device which is where she designed it. Hopefully by the end of April, it will be reformatted for other devices. For those who have been assigned responsibilities, she would like to hear from you if you need minor changes. She is still working on other enhancements for our team and frequently asked questions.

Adoptions

Kris

- **Pruning Adoptions:** 68 (includes wedding tree)
- **Orchard Support Adoptions (\$125):** 58 (includes tour trees and free trees)

Tree Tags Status

Barry and Rich have signs on all the trees minus the adopters' names. Rich did a survey to make sure each tree had a sign. There was only one missing. Barry and Rich will have the name tags on trees by the end of the week. The next activity is relabeling the trees in High Density section.

Kiosk

Rich says as of last Friday the list was up to dated. The new one for this week will be posted as we have 2 new adoptions.

Pruning

- Recap of February 21 event—Refreshments provided. Barry also provided rain jacket for a High School Student. There was better turnout even though we had a good rain.
- Upcoming Pruning Parties: March 7, 21, and 28 Debbie will be reassessing the priority list after the next pruning date. She also updated CORE regarding notices to adopters reminding of responsibilities and the requirement to prune trees by the end of March.
- List of trees to be pruned A reminder to sign off when the pruning is complete. When pruning use a tarp to collect the branches. Barry can pull tarps to the dumpsters with his ATV. This frees up tarps so we should have enough. Adopters can bring their own. City will move the deposited branched into the dumpsters.
- Espalier CURRAN SIGN Volunteers-done on 21st by Monty and Patricia. It needs mulch.
- High Density: Patricia Stranski – will be done this month. It will need a lot of mulch.
- Belgium Espalier: Sue will finish on the 7th
- Question arose how to address several trees that have holes with water in them. Bill says to leave it alone since patching or filling it in may result in rot. The trees are 75+ years old. This is why we remind adopters and tour attendees not to climb on trees. We do not want any one hurt or the trees. Bill pointed out a tree planted in 1800 at Hudson Bay Co Fort Vancouver died only a few years ago. Bill suggested we check with Robert the arborist. Ian gave a similar answer when Monty asked him about the same problem. It was suggested that the limbs may need to be braced. Debbie will identify trees with significant holes when she checks on the trees.

Tours/Student Volunteers-Kay and Kelly

Kay & Kelly-First tour of the season is scheduled for April 30 with space available for more tours April 27-30 only. Debbie reminded Kay and Kelly to keep the City informed about their tour schedules.

CORE agreed to continue a student contest to earn a free tree based on hours earned volunteering in the orchard. Most student volunteer opportunities occur before late March.

Bethany the HS contact), indicated students are self-reporting this year. Parental releases to work in the orchard are coming in both paper and electronic forms. For electronic releases the student shows them the release on their phones and sends a copy to S.Mahugh@cityofup.com. The paper will be sent to the same person by Kay or can be attached to the volunteer hours.

Fund Raiser Logo Design Contest-

Lynsie provided information about basic design contest parameters. CORE discussed a possible annual t-shirt design contest, whether to revise the current logo, inclusion of the horse statue, displaying the design entries and various items that could feature the new logo/design (t-shirts, hats, bags).

Final decision by the group. Post in early April deadline June 1st. This year we will focus on creating a Tee Shirt which might sprout to other items. CORE will choose the winner. Winner receives a Free Tee Shirt and \$100 dollar prize. The contest is open to everyone ...not just UP residents.

Three colors and one side of tee shirts are the limitations. At end of August at the Community Harvest Day we could post all the entries and promote the winning tee shirt. The public could order shirts directly from BonFire which is the organization we will be working with to develop the items.

Concert Status

Sue and Mark who is paid by the city are still in the process of selecting bands. We can only offer \$500 per band. It is not what they usually get paid but it does give them exposure. Core discussed reducing the number of concerts. Feedback was the concert selections were great last year and it's a good community activity. Expectations for CORE is at least 2 members should be attendance at each concert. CORE agreed to ask the Chamber Bay Women's club to sell ice cream and water.

Barry Crust is an artist of beautiful walking sticks and canes. He is willing to sell them at the concerts and share his profits with the Orchard 50%. For those canes made from Orchard Wood, this could be great keepsake from the orchard.

Cider Squeeze

We need to start obtaining donations for the Cider Squeeze now In the past we have learned our requests were too late. We can use financial donations or snacks for our volunteers.

Gavin – Eagle Scout came for some signatures and updated on his project to start in April. He will be constructing a bench and spreading mulch. He has all his lumber to start his project. **We told him we have mulch!**

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 6-8PM