

## **CORE April 2026 Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

6pm-8pm

UP Civic Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room

3609 Market Place W – take elevator up to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**Attendees in person and online** – Barry Crust, Sue Gurley, Nghagara Hayes, Bill Horn (Master Gardener) Tony West (Operations Manager), Lysie Patschke, Asuka Ludden, Kay Townsend, Kelly Radford, Monty Stranski, Liam Toner(Eagle Scout), Joe Toner, Debbie Klosowski, Kris Docherty

**Approval of Minutes** – minutes approved with one correction

**Treasurer's Report** – Money received from the end of the month report was \$2,550 (adoptions). The Expenditures at the end of March reports were \$6,347.33 (included the Family Tree Pruning and Bower Bird Gardens \$400 plus other reimbursements). Sue was given the assignment to compare expenses between year 2025 and 2026. To come up with 2026 expenses early in the year, Sue looked at expenses between 2019 to 2025 which showed a 24% increase. This gives an average of 4% increase yearly of expenses. The current Balance is \$17,049.05. The \$2,550 income received from adoption is not reflective of the total amount received as city does only monthly reporting. They do not carry any balance from previous year. We have most of our adoptions in November thru December. We have 122 paying adoptions per Rich which is approximately \$11,000. We are financially ahead of last year as we changed adoption fees. Debbie asked Sue with Rich and Monty to get an appointment with city Finance to discuss what we need to see. Sue noticed that we are not paying for any sprays and the summer concerts have not been taken out of our account last year.

**Staff Report** – Tony stated that the irrigation has been turned on. One tree 's irrigation hose has been repaired. The cedar shakes have been cleaned on the bandstand not the barn. Rick should be relieved as he was concerned about the bee houses located on the barn being affected by the barn cleaning. First half of the Grandview fence has been replaced. The fence between the CURRAN HOUSE and Orchard will not be replaced. It made it hard to mow. Orchard sprayed on the March 9<sup>th</sup>. Insecticide spray is due in May. No updates on the playground project which include other improvements in the Orchard. Mowing has already started. Exterior Faucet was requested to be replaced due to pressure and the difficulty to turn on plus spraying people. We need to clean our equipment after every event. City will check into getting another frost-free faucet. The pressure has caused Barry to replace the hose 4 times.

**Volunteer Hours** – 403 Total hours (non-CORE volunteers contributed 206.5 hours)

**Eagle Scout project presentation** – Liam made the presentation asking for consideration about putting a Flagpole in the Orchard. CORE members heard that the flag project is very important to Liam. CORE asked question regarding Height-20ft, no permit is necessary due to the height, plan for tattered flags, the need for light to deter vandalism, who is available to make the appropriate changes or removing the flag . Monty suggested checking with the VA for help in replacing flags. Liam was asked when he

wanted to complete his time project. He wanted to complete his installation if approved in the summer. Debbie stated CORE would discuss his proposal and get back to him within the next couple days.

**Website** – (Lynsie) general webpage revisions have been done. She finished mobile formatting for access from other mobile devices. She moved all tree care pages to its own tab. Revision of the pruning page and text was done. She worked on the school tours calendar and webpage.

**Adoptions** – (Kris) (the numbers reported differ as I am measuring workload vs financial gains)

-Pruning Adoptions (\$65) level 71

-Orchard Support Adoptions(\$125)-61 (includes tour trees + free trees 3)

per Rich 51 in payment status - 10 trees in nonpayment status-3free trees, 6 tour trees and one tree purchased and planted in orchard to celebrate a wedding hence called the wedding tree in nonpayment for 3 years. 54 trees are unadopted that are adoptable.

**Note: March 31<sup>st</sup> ends adoptions for \$65. Adoption at the \$125 level will continue until July 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Tree Tags Status** – Barry-done. Barry acknowledge Rich’s help to get all the signs for 200 trees done. They did new tree signs and then adhered the adopter’s name.

**Kiosk updates**-Rich- posted current lists

### **Tree Care**

- **Recap Pruning Season** – Debbie was stunned how good the orchard looked this year. It probably the best year which is surprising as we were down volunteers to help with pruning. She did identify two trees that did not appear pruned. The policy that was well posted if no pruning next year the adoption fee is raised from \$65 to 125 for the next season. Once adopter was done with the pruning. There was no signature of completion or signed in on volunteer list. It was decided we would inform the adopters that there is no indication that pruning was done to guarantee future adoption fees at \$65.level. There may be an explanation.

- **Tree Inventory** – Debbie did an inventory of the trees regarding Pruning status, identify those with holes, and to determine what trees might be a candidate for replacement trees. Robert plans to check on trees this summer that have been identified. Robert tries to move the tree for those exhibiting holes in the trunks. Movement of the tree indicates the needs to watch the tree need to be tagged. It does not mean immediate removal but need to be watched. We need to remind adopters and visitors not to climb on the trees due to their age. Barry reminded us of the limb that fell prior to start of concert which missed an attendee. It makes thinning a critical maintenance activity. Lynsie suggested implementing a thinning complete sheet much like the prune complete sheets. Monty reminded us we are a Heritage Orchard which replacements should be “heritage” apple trees. These would be trees whose origin can be traced back fifty years such as Braeburn, Gravenstein, Melrose, Winter Banana and Wolf River. We have them all except the Melrose, but it will be here 2027 per Rick. He is taking care of 4 Melrose, and 4 King Tree starts.

- **Bees** – Rick has placed the bees in the orchard.

**Insect Traps** – Assembly and hanging: May 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteers are needed to be in the orchard at 9 AM to put the codling moth traps with lures and apple maggot apples with lures in the test tree. Debbie will send us the test trees for each quadrant(4) where the 4 sticky apples with lures and 2 codling moth tents with lures will be hung for test trees only. Debbie will be checking for the insects and would welcome help with this activity. Debbie will report insect levels to help spray company make decisions regarding appropriate Spray.

**Tours/Student Volunteers** – Kay & Kelly 's first tour is April 30<sup>th</sup> to be done when the blossoms are out. This week is the only week they are available for tours.

In May volunteer opportunities (mulch, bug traps, weeding other?) to add hours for the High School contest to earn a tree and to fulfill volunteer hour requirements for the year.

Student verification forms can be fax to Samantha [Mahugh@cityofUP.com](mailto:Mahugh@cityofUP.com) when on phone and verified by Kay/Kelly.

**Logo Design Contest Update** – Lysie reviewed the written documents that describe the process and application. This needs to get to identified schools and local sources for distribution as soon as possible as contest is April 15 to May 29<sup>th</sup>. Debbie will get her contacts to Lysie since she will be gone for 30 day leaving on the 14<sup>th</sup>. There was a suggestion to acknowledge that the winner's design would be used on a variety of items as a fund raiser for the orchard.

Other-Rubrik – Kay started the discussion on measures of objectivity when judging the entries. This is to be discussed later. She suggested judging by clarity of design, color usage, reflective of orchard activities, originality/creativity, and wide appeal. Members can volunteer to be part of the judging team.

**Auction items** – 2 requests for apple trees for fund raiser auctions. Debbie asked the group how we feel about it. Who maintains the trees ? It was decided the auction winner has responsibilities for thinning which needs to be understood at auction. We have 54 trees not adopted. This is a good way to promote the orchard. Current adopters come from UP zip codes and other zip codes including Gig Harbor, Tacoma, Puyallup and Seattle.

**Summer Concerts** – Concert dates and bands established to date no sponsorships yet.

- July 23 -James Lee Murray Band (soul, funk and blues)
- July 30 The Mistaken (American roots music)
- Aug 6 Rock and Roll Magic (classic rock hits)
- August 13 Octopus Ballet(Americana and folk)
- August 20 JBLM First Army Corps Band

Debbie informed UP Historical Society of the dates in case that want to be open the museum. Chambers Bay Women's club is still deciding whether they will sell ice cream and water at summer concerts.

**Eagle Scout Project** – We are not the final say, but we felt that the flagpole might be better suited for another area. Since we are a volunteer group, we do have anyone available for flag responsibilities that a flag deserves.

**Community gardens** – Auska proposed to re-establishment of Mary Curran’s garden as a Community Garden. We are listed under community garden. She had a garden between left side of house and curran lane. The location and establishment of a garden may hinge on approval from two organizations. Tony showed the property lines in question which appears to be part of the UP Historical Museum property and Curran Orchard property. Asuka will discuss with the UP Historical Museum Board her suggestion. This to be discussed later so no decision.

Debbie reviewed an email to Adopters with CORE regarding orchard events and maintenance responsibilities.

Debbie will be out of area till April 30.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, May 5th, 2026  
6pm-8pm**