

CORE Minutes November 2023

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Microsoft team Meeting ID 273 687 066 716 password uV8wEJ or

Call in 509-342-7253 or attend in person

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees: Tony West (park maintenance supervisor) Barry Crust, Bill Horn (master gardener) Rick Mercier, Sue Gurley, Kayla Williams, Jill Worthington, Jessica Hannity, Monty Stranski, Debbie Klosowski, Rich Knowles, Kris Docherty

Treasurer's Report current balance in account \$14,958.52 Brochure cost pending.

Volunteer Hours – Orchard 278 hours and 20 Administrative hours

Staff Report- irrigation-completed zone 9, orchard irrigation has been turned off.

Horse Art has been waxed; patina has been damaged due to the vandals' throwing apples. Core asked Tony to be informed of city's cost to repair the damaged area.

2024 spray contract- there is one more year on the current contract.

Website - new dates, PowerPoint and, adoption language will need to be added to the website.

*Orchard Maintenance

-pruning height reduction-Debbie reviewed the orchard for trees needing height reduction. She identified 16-18 trees that looked bad. She asked for a bid from Family Tree company that we used earlier this year for height reduction. The estimate is much higher than last year. Debbie indicated we received a lower price last year due to our volunteer group status; however, a company representative also indicated it was much more work than anticipated. The new estimate for this year's request is \$4400 plus \$850 for chipping. CORE requested Debbie to ask if there was any wiggle room on the price but approved the payment of the estimate if that is their final number. Chipping was felt to be a plus due to work involved and lack of volunteers to do pick up. We can use the chipped branches around the trees.

-Gleaner-Core thanked Jessica .There were 21 participants which picked 755 lbs. primarily yellow delicious apples plus 471 lbs. of windfalls. The distributions were 645 lbs. for Reed's Sweet Wine, 14 lbs. to Ft Nisqually for a project, 98lbs tbd (to be determined). Windfall distribution 191 lbs. to Bowed G/Farmer Ed 100lbs to compost and 180lbs.tbd (to be determined) CORE is pleased that the apples are not going to waste as in the past.

Power point presentation- Monty stated the power point was designed for the new adopter vs the seasoned veteran pruner. The group viewed the entire document and gave feedback.

Monty did a tremendous job, especially editing ladders out the pictures since ladders aren't allowed. The Power point was an excellent job. After minor corrections, it will be put on the website. Two copies will be made for the barn. There are different ways to learn the skills of pruning. Many pruning videos do not address the type of pruning required for our shape of our trees. We do have a video for basic instructions by Carol O'Meara on our website under pruning dates and insect tab. Kris suggested an additional tab on the home page highlighting pruning instructions. Members were also encouraged to steer anyone needing additional instructions directly to arborist Robert Sweet and Ian Sweet at the pruning parties.

Recap for 2023 Tour season- Jill reported that she conducted 20 tours with 458 kids, and 327 adults for a total of 785 people. The transitional program students are going to work in the orchard Tuesday and Thursdays 10-12pm each day. Their work has been very appreciated. There was also a discussion of providing

to the city council a recap of our activities for the year. Debbie will send out a draft for input to Core for input.

***Tree Adoption Brochures-Kayla W**-ready to be mailed . She is leaving for 10 days back on Black Friday. Debbie will be picking up the mail in her absence. The brochures will be mailed before she leaves. Sue had a request to adopt 5 trees to support a foodbank. The question was could they use one application when requesting the 5 trees. Kayla said one application could be used with the understanding that each tree is \$45 . They need to be maintaining each tree which includes pruning ,picking up windfalls and thinning or change to the \$70 amount per tree which eliminates pruning and thinning. \$70 adopters are responsible for weeding, pickup windfalls and harvesting.

Barn renovation-Monty and Rich with help from Peter worked on the needed repairs. It took 3 days for siding, caulking, and painting. Replacement of two windows is still not done. There was a discussion regarding water issues and dry rot. Tony will get back to us with input on future repairs. Rich will be the main person for the project.

Barn Clean up- Barry, Debbie, Jill-Barry said the barn organization has changed for the better. They purged a lot of items including the "Do Not Pick" signs. We are missing four-wheel barrels plus one wheel barrel has a flat tire. Jill says other tires need air. It was asked if we should consider solid tires? Rick volunteered to come with his air compressor to put air in the tires.

TREE Signs- Barry presented options for attaching the names to the tree signs either staples or screws. The group said whatever is easier so Barry will proceed with staples at this point.

Clarification regarding access to use of the Orchard for personal activities such as BDAY Parties, Weddings, Memorial Services etc and availability of city staff . Per Debbie Sage: The city does not have staff on weekends. Birthday parties or our gatherings of over 50 people will need to put in for an event permit. On the city's website there is a Facility Rental page which will have links to the information they will need. What generated this clarification was who could open the gates for a family event. CORE should not be opening the gates for events.

To increase the number of student volunteers, Barry Crust proposed that the student volunteer with the most volunteer hours be given a complimentary tree. It was decided that Jill Worthington and Barry would develop specifics for further discussions later.

Future topics

Our usual meeting on the first Tues in December at City Hall was cancelled in lieu of a CORE Holiday Potluck at Debbie's house with an abbreviated meeting if needed on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 6PM at Debbie's house, 6834 Chambers Creek Road West.

Significant others are invited. More info to come.