

CORE Minutes – Sept 6, 2022

In person meeting at City Hall Vision Room next to Atrium – 6:00 pm
3715 Bridgeport Way W, Univ. Place 98466

Attendees: Jill Worthington, Bill Horn(master gardener), Rick Mercier, Larry Warwick, Barry Crust, Aly Johnston, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes- August minutes approved

Treasurer's Report - \$16,620.02 after Cider squeeze expenses

Volunteer Hours – 229 Orchard hours and 13 Administrative hours There would be more orchard hours if everyone that signed in listed the hours they worked.

Staff Report- none

Happy Birthday Jill

Cider Squeeze

--What went well? Great Turnout! Trader Jos support was greatly appreciated along with their good bags. They paid for 20 pizzas and Steve and Jill paid for 10 pizzas. Next Year Rick will check several vendors to find good prices for apples. Tacoma Boys Honey Crisp Apples were a hit plus a good price. Thank you Rick

--What could be improved? We need to cultivate volunteers to support set up and tear down at the end of the Squeeze. How to process customers after washing to avoid customers in line for an hour and a half plus pressers getting out timely. We had pressers that did not leave till after 5:30. Washing station needs a supply of the coupons for the customers entering from a variety of entrances. We discussed need for another electric press. However, it was decided when press is used only one day a year. It was not cost effective to buy an additional electric press. We do need more people pressing. It was suggested there be a runner to inform the information booth of the line cut off. Announcements cannot be heard at the entrance to the park. Starting at 1:30 we told attendees that buying apples was the best option as cut off planned for 2:00 pm. There would not be enough time to find a tree and pick it for cider. Apple picking was still an option for home use.

--Preliminary Cider Squeeze Budget Report (see attached)

-Signs sizes for informing the public when they can pick in the orchard- signs posted around the outside fences need to be bigger and reusable. Barry recommended that we purge our folding chairs, as many are not useable.

Orchard Maintenance

--Irrigation – An understanding of the irrigation system was requested. Bill gave an overview of how the system is set up for distribution of water. High Density Trees have shallow root systems so water was increased to that area based on our request. What is impact of the cedar chips in identifying if trees are getting water? How do we verify the system is working when the drip tubes are buried? – Bill Horn said it is hard to determine if the irrigation is working when the chips are down. However the use of cedar chips is a good practice for weed prevention and moisture retention. Drip system is more effective for the orchard. Vs. the spray system, which is used for the Belgium fence. It was suggested adopters help with the verification that their tree is getting water. Based on the low turn out on pruning days and for trees not adopted, we may need to put together a team to verify which trees have working drip system. We are still waiting for information on irrigation practices from orchards in Eastern Washington.

--Insect Survey/Spray Results – (3 attachments) We looked at the statistics and discussed the increased volume of codling moths when Debbie inspected the codling moth traps and apple maggot apples. It was more than in the past several years. The quality of the fruit from the High Density section was very poor. Bill suggested increased thinning would be helpful plus check spacing. This area has a variety of trees. As a result, their

harvest times may vary. We currently harvest all the trees at the same time. We bag them up to sell at the Cider Squeeze. Based on the increase in insects it would be good to know when/what is being sprayed. Does the fencing of the High-Density area interfere with spraying this area? However, increased codling moths were not limited to the high-density area.

--Letter to Jack Ecklund- need volunteer to write letter regarding what we encountered with this year's harvest with pictures. We may want to get adopter input before initiating the letter. There was discussion about the quality of the apples (yellow and cracked on the trees), the brown / curled leaves and the increased codling moth infestation. It would be helpful to be able to talk to the contractor directly to confirm what is being sprayed. The group wanted to present their concerns to City council. In the next meeting, we need to organize what and who will do the presentation given the opportunity.

Work Parties

--Windfall pick ups- need volunteers + adopters to help Jill met with Monique Patel with University Place School District Community Transition Program who has students that can work in the Orchard. When we hung apple maggot apples on every tree, this group helped put together the apples for several years.

--Pruning limbs effecting mowing--reminder that there was a list of trees to be trimmed on Barn counter
- Gleaners – is there a need? It was felt there was not enough apples to be worth calling gleaners.

Concert Recap/FF Dedication Recap- There were praises for Sue Gurley and Mike Hurwitz. The selection of bands was great which included the band at the squeeze. The concerts were well attended.

Orchard Etiquette- we had individuals climbing in the trees at concerts and the Cider Squeeze. During the Squeeze it was reported attendees were in the trees shaking the limbs for the apples. We do have tools to help with the harvest. Orchard trees are old and can be damaged. Tree climbing could lead to injuries. We know one of the limbs that fell recently showed disease, which weakened it. It was proposed that there be a Park Etiquette sign posted at Parks asking people to respect the parks and themselves!

Other: Jill Thank you for sharing you Birthday cupcakes with the group. Welcome Aly!

Next Meeting: Tues, Oct. 4 – 6pm It appears we will be moving to another location after the next meeting but still in city Hall.