

## **CORE February Minutes**

### **Tuesday, February 6, 2024**

**UP Civic Building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room**  
**3609 Market Place W – take elevator up to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Attendees:** Jill Worthington, Barry Crust, Richard Knowles, Rick Mercier, Bill Horn(Master Gardener), Monty Stranski, Tony West (Operations Manager),Debbie Klosowski, Kayla Williams, Kris Docherty

**Approval of Minutes-** January minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** -Our account has \$17,660.47. Question regarding expenditure on concerts. April minutes state there were 5 concerts and \$2000 approved for 4 concerts.

**Volunteer Hours-** January orchard hours 74.

**Staff Report- Project updates:** French Drain has been completed along the backside of the barn catching the water and dumping into the Blackberries. The wall will be done before summer along with completing additional irrigation for the trees identified at the last meeting.(Rows 28,29,30) As of the last council meeting, landscaping will be done by city employees which includes mowing. It will be a month before the first mowing. Debbie asked what we can do to help prepare orchard for the mowing. Tony asked that branches should not be left in the grass but put on the wood chip pile when the upper dumpster is filled. Jill has had the volunteers cutting the branches that hang in the mowing path. The volunteers and adopters will be asked to do additional trimming of the pathways between trees and not to leave branches in the grass. Question can mulch be put on the irrigation tubing. Tony said they were designed to be buried. Barry asked for more mulch. Tony will provide more dumping at two sites at top of orchard near the barn and at the bottom of curran Lane.

**Website** - Debbie sent to Sidney identified dates needing corrections.

#### **\*Orchard Maintenance-review**

Spray Update- Rick/Tony next spray should be March approx. around the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Weather dictates when the sprays can be done.

-The 1<sup>st</sup> Orchard spray was done on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **-Pruning Parties/Additional dates**

Feedback from the fist pruning party. Debbie was disappointed by the lack of adopter turn out. However ,volunteer turnout was good. (see Jill's feedback on Saturday)

- **CORE** list of trees to be pruned is in the barn as of January 21. Adopters can help CORE with the pruning list. Cross out tree number when you have finished the pruning.

-**Jill's** Volunteer Update- we had several(4) HS students turn out with a goal of earning a tree. The Mormon church volunteers continue to be supportive of the orchard. There were several members at the pruning party.

Jill will be unavailable for checking in high school students on February 17<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>. Barry will let the kids know what needs to be done. Barry will collect permission slips, get them to sign in and put in barn per Jill. Jill purchased 10 weeding pads for volunteers who are involved in weeding.

**Feb 28-** Master Gardener training- There will be major training conducted by Robert with Master gardeners. There are 5 or 6 trees set aside for the training which were taped and do not prune signs. It is hoped that some of the trainee might want to help in the orchard after the training.

#### **Mason Bee Class-Rick**

-Scheduled class at UP Library on February 10<sup>th</sup> 10:30-12:30 He says it is going to be very informative.

## **Tree Adoption Updates -Kayla**

- How many trees have been adopted? How many of the adoptions were renewals. 75 trees are adopted. 56 renewals 14 are new adopters or gifted trees. 5 applications to be processed to make 75. There were a 105 adopted last year. Debbie asked Kayla to send out an email to remind adopters to renew which will include 2023 and 2022 adopters. Debbie wants to do a blast. There is a concern that there were postal delays based on an email message to us. Kayla will send out to the group applications. It has been determined the need for more than one person to manage the Orchard's Gmail. Debbie volunteered but would like another backup. Jill volunteered to be an additional backup. Kayla will give them training.
- Kayla asked when the young trees are adoptable. Rule of thumb the tree should be 3-5 years old and producing 15-20 apples.
- Post Office There are concerns whether everyone got their letters.
- Tree Signs- Barry has 70 signs completed. Old signs were taken down.
- Wheelbarrows-We are setting aside a tree for Les Schwab that waived labor costs for repairing the wheelbarrow tires. We are still charged for material like inner tubes.

**March Wedding/Tree Issue**-We had a request to plant a tree in the orchard as part of their wedding. We reviewed our tree replacement policy then considered the trees suggested by the couple. Pollination, size, and compatibility with our goal to stock the orchard with cider trees. This is part of our replacement tree policy. We decided on a Dwarf Honey Crisp from Raintree Nursery in Morton WA. The cost would be \$74 with shipping. The requestor would be responsible for purchase then after 3 years they would revert to an adopter. The Honey Crisp location needs to be close to pollinator which is a Wolf River tree. The proposed locations that are available would-be row 14-tree 7 or 10, or 13-tree 7. There is no problem regarding access to water in the proposed locations per Tony. There was further discussion regarding what trees were best for the orchard semi dwarf or dwarf or standard. Bill's feedback it is important to know what the rootstock is for the trees being considered.as it influences tree size. Debbie will call Raintree to determine what rootstock each type of trees will be growing on. which determines height. There was concern about damage by deer when deciding on tree size. Due to delivery height (4 ft) on any of the trees , they will need to be protected by fencing.

Summer Concerts-Discussion when to schedule the summer concert. Per Sue's email she was proposing running the concerts on consecutive Thursdays this summer vs every other week. Last Summer to refresh the group they were held July 6<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup>, and August 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Other ?**

Giving feedback to Tony after Core members visited to the Barn.

- electrical boxes were open. Suggested a clasp on them RK.
- current orchard sign on barn was loosened. RK
- suggest motion light are needed for night MS
- Debbie wanted to thank Barry for the organization in the Barn. Fire extinguishers and safety kits have been added.

**Next meeting: March 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6pm-8pm**

