

CORE June Minutes

Tuesday June 4, 2024

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees: Rich Knowles, Monty Stranski, Sue Gurley, Rick Mercier(Mason Beekeeper), Bill Horn (Master Gardner),Debbie Klosowski, Robert Sweet (Arborist), Annette Kruzic, Kayla Williams, Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes- minutes approve with a name correction

Treasurer's Report - Expenses for a year was \$6,764.45.Final Account Balance was \$13,475.43 with pending expenses from Debbie (laminated, water, gloves) The adoptions brought in \$6305.00. So far. There was a question whether the banner(\$350) and concerts were part of the expenses. Sue said no they were not included in the expenses for 2024. There is pending expenses for the bees \$450 and \$100 for expenses turn in by Barry. Since expenses exceeded money from adoptions, it led to the question are the adoption fees enough for the orchard to be sustainable for the future. Sue stated we had Pruning expenses of \$ 4899 Family Tree Care and Robert Sweet Pruning of \$993. Debbie believes this pruning was necessary to sustain the orchard. June adoption numbers were 132 which included several trees donated (free with no adoption fees) We are up 20 trees from last year. We need to relook at adoption fees and other ways to generate revenue for on coming years.

Volunteer Hours – May orchard hours total 27.75 (19.0 CORE) (8.75 volunteer) hours.

Staff Report- Tony reported that Jackson and team have completed the irrigation and site preparation for the 6 new trees. ROC grant application will have a Power point presentation at the upcoming council meeting. It will take 2 or 3 months to learn the city's score. May 31st was the date of the last insecticide spray. It was brought to Tony's attention that there are 3 piles of branches near curran lane and brookside that were ready for pickup. Tony will get Brookside dumpster emptied then have the identified sites of branches picked up.

Website- Web page is updated with the concert dates. United Church logo will be posted on the banner on the webpage. Their sponsorship will allow overflows parking rights at the church for the concerts.

Orchard Maintenance

- Insect Monitoring -Debbie has been out of town so will check on insect status within a week.

-window replacement-Rich/Monty Ordered and shipped on May 31st to Monty's address. Monty will deliver them to the barn upon receipt.

-Spray Date - Rick/Tony- May 31st insecticide spray was done.

-Bee Status- Rick removed the Bees over a week ago. He felt it was better than expected regarding bee return. Bee chambers were not full but probably ½ full. It was not a great year as it was wet and cold. During the bloom cycle they were active . They got on the flowers are least once. In a good year with warmer and dry they would have hit the blooms more than once. Some of the trees have a good set on them others not so much. Some of us on thinning day did have much to thin.

-While in the orchard, it was pointed out that the leaves on several trees were withered and pale. We forwarded a picture to Bill Horn for review and feedback. Bill's response is that it was powdery Mildew which loves Gravensteins. Checking with WSU website the powdery mildew can negatively impact photosynthesis, shoot growth and reduce fruit set. At this point it is not something we need to treat. You can prune new growth. Pruned material from the trees should not be put in compost piles. Check for more information check website. Hortsense: Apple: Powdery mildew|Hortsense| Washington State University (wsu.edu)-provided by Bill Horn

Tree Adoption Updates -Kayla reported the current number of trees adopted /assigned 132.

-Debbie confirmed that Kayla is sending a confirmation of payment receipt and tree assignment by mail. Debbie says we are hearing from adopters that they did not get a letter. Debbie said Kayla can email the new adopters for those that provided an email address. Next year we will revisit how we communicate to the adopters after this problematic year. The other problem this year was non receipt of checks for renewals and new applications. As a result of no contact their trees assigned to others or new adopters did not get tree assignments.

NEW Business

- Group Assignment was to give feedback on the trees selected for ordering from the Raintree website with their pollinator/cider status. Debbie suggested Wynoochee and Williams Pride as possibilities for our orchard as pollinators exist in the orchard. This was based on how we left the last meeting to add new varieties to the orchard. We need pollinators so Crabapples were suggested.

We revisited how to manage the 6 prepared sites for new trees. We currently have 2 Kings in the orchard. Jill Worthington has been monitoring the apple production for these trees. "They always produce, this last year was the best I've seen." They are located near playground 3-1, and 4-1 (tour tree). Do we know if these are grafted trees? We have 6 King starts that Rick is raising from the 100-year-old non grafted King from the Historical Neely Mansion in Auburn. These "free trees" have turned into a bigger challenge than expected noted by members. The previous and new discussion talked about if not grafted it will exceed any tree in the orchard **40 ft vs 15 ft**, not a pollinator and disease prone. The maintenance of the Kings was discussed for the future if not grafted. Robert provided insight on how they could be pruned but realistic who would be responsible in the future. We want the orchard manageable for our replacement to be successful in continuing the orchard as a park for the community. Orchard trees were planted in the 1950s. In addition, Last meeting we discussed what was impact at pruning to keep it manageable without grafting. Bill said it could impact the yield.

Several of members are excited about learning new skills. They would like to learn grafting root stock m-26 with scion wood. M-26 root stock will reduce the height of the tree. Next Spring, Robert will visit Rick's six starter trees looking for the one-year wood that is 1/3 inch in diameter. Robert is willing to help with the grafting. Another option mentioned was Peninsula Fruit Club. They have a show in March. Other options are available in the area. Root stock is inexpensive approximately \$4.49 (raintree website) Scion wood can be obtained from the Neely Mansion if needed. Grafting is a spring activity as noted at last meeting 3-1-25.

Final decision was to buy 6 M-26 root stock. Robert and crew will graft onto the root stock 2 of the King starters. The remaining 3 rootstock will be used to grafted from the trees existing in the orchard. For lack of pollinators in our orchard, it was recommended that a Crabtree be one of the 6 such as Dolgo crabapple. (best for cider per raintree nursery)

Summer Concerts-Bid received for concert banner which will allow us to change the date only. It will be cost effective if we do not change the day or time. It will cost \$350. CORE gave Sue an approval for the Banner purchase. Mark Horwitz is handling the PR. United Church logo is on the concert posting on website and Mark will note the churches sponsorships at the concerts. United Church Sponsorship allows us to use their parking lot for overflow parking. Banner for traffic circle will be at round about at Cirque and Alameda

Thinning Sat, June 8th 9:30 support/instruction for adopters on that day- Debbie plus others?

-we will email to adopters reminding of the date and referencing the website instructions. Core members will be available for questions. Included in the email will be announcement of the Adopters squeeze to get more volunteers and participants for the Adopters' squeeze.

Cider Squeeze for Adopters- Saturday Aug 17 feedback from work group Monty, Rich and Debbie meeting on Saturday anyone can join them.

Community Harvest-Sunday August 25th 10-4

New Adoption Brochures/Procedures

Other items?

Next meeting: July 2 Tuesday 6pm-8pm