

CORE May Minutes

Tuesday May 7, 2024

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

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

Attendees: Debbie Klosowski, Barry Crust, Rick Mercier(Bee Keeper), Rich Knowles, Jill Worthington, Bill Horn (Master Gardener),Mike Campion, Ann Hagan, Monty Stranski, Page Campion, Sue Gurley, Tony West(City Operation Manager), Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes- April meeting minutes approve with two dates of concerts corrected

Treasurer's Report -Robert and Ian Sweets have turned in their pruning bill of \$993.00. Current balance in our account \$12,990.43

Volunteer Hours -54 Orchard Hours

Staff Report- Park appreciation day volunteers helped with the spreading of mulch and picked up branches. The city has applied for RCO grant for improved parking on Brookside, designating 2 disability parking slots, concrete path to the band stand, new play area accessible for all children and a public restroom. CORE will provide a letter in support of the grant. With the remaining money for Irrigation project , Tony stated that rows 28,29 and 30 were now completed. The irrigation has been confirmed and turned on a week ago. Tomorrow the irrigation for the new trees will be completed. He was asked how the area will be prepared and placement of the irrigation tubing. They will remove the sod and cover the tubing with mulch. (March 2023 mulch on top of tubing was decided to prevent evaporation, vandalism and tripping at the squeeze) The trees are not ready to be planted. Rick and Barry planted the branches that rooted in pots. Rick will “foster” the tree branches till they are ready. (see further discussion under new business). Core asked whether pictures of the first volunteer contest winners to earn a tree through volunteer hours can be posted in the city newsletter. The city's response was Yes if the pictures were taken at public event and parents gave permission. The parents could send their approval by email to the city.

Old Business

-Parks Appreciation Day Recap

Mulch pruned branches for mowers, branch pick up, weeding. It helped the Orchard.

-Tree Adoption Updates -Kayla was ill Debbie states 130 trees adopted

-status of missing checks- Debbie in the 29 years we have never had this problem with missing checks. Debbie has permission for the adopters to send their checks to the city directly. She will be working on a different process for next year. We have another person saying they gave us cash for two trees. We do not have a record of them. Debbie and Barry will assign them two trees for this season.

-Updated email lists-meeting with Jill and Kayla

Stewart re CORE email acc

Tags- Barry - It was suggested that we relook at how to identify adopters' names on the tree. We have learned that tying the sign too tight can become part of the tree. Visibility of the signs can be lost when the tree's leaves appear. Names on one side prevents seeing the names when coming from the opposite direction. The group decided next year that we put signs around the trunks with twine which was done in the past.

Adoption list in Kiosks have been updated

-Spray Update- Tony has started the attempts to contact contractor to schedule a date for next spray which is usually at the end of May or first of June. The bees are not out of orchard.

-Bee Update- Rick says Bees are still in the orchard and will remain as long as there are blooms and ample food as it has been raining a lot.

NEW Business

-Neely Mansion-Free Apple "Trees". Rick and Barry got the starts. Rick has the starts in containers at his house. The starts were from a 100-year-old King Tree which is a large tree. It was not a grafted tree. Bill Horn voiced his concerns about planting these trees in the orchard when ready. If planted these trees will produce very large trees which would not be compatible with the trees currently in the orchard. Pruning to make these trees to fit in the orchard would result in very few apples. There was discussion about grafting the scion wood from the King on to semi-dwarf root stock M26. Rick asked when the time would be to do the grafting. Bill says March 1st. We need to get more information from Raintree Nursery regarding grafting assistance. Debbie asked for a volunteer to talk to raintree about the process. We have till March to decide whether to proceed to graft or not to use these branches. After the discussion, Debbie assigned the group homework for June's meeting. She suggested that the group visit the Raintree website to come up with suggestions of 4-6 semi dwarf trees to order. These trees chosen will need to meet our criteria (cider trees) and that there will be pollinators in the orchard. The raintree would like the order for new trees by July.

Spring/Summer Schedule

-Insect Trap Hanging- Date Saturday May 11 11am to 2 pm

Traps/Apples- need to be visible 5ft up, outer edge(not interior of the tree)

Bring twisties- 16 test trees: R1-2,3-1,4-4, 7-6

11-4, 14-3, 15-1, 17-5

25-4, 25-2, 26-5, 27-2

30-3, 32-7, 33-1, 36-3

Jill states that help in the orchard for May 11 was posted on Curtis Website. We may get help.

Monty pointed out there are at least a dozen trees that need branches picked up. Rock Road rows 17 & 19. Curran Lane rows 25, 26, 32, 33.

July- Insect Monitoring Debbie would like a volunteer to help

Summer Concerts-Sue is working on updating the Banner. Debbie suggested we get a bid for signs promoting the concerts that could be placed in the roundabouts. Debbie described her idea to get bids. Parks crew has posted the activities in the roundabouts in the past.

Thinning Sat, June 8th- support/instruction for adopters on that day? Monty says instructions are on the website. Rich pointed out last year there still needs someone available to answer questions from personal experience. Debbie says she will be there.

Cider Squeeze for Adopters- Saturday Aug 17 Planning scheduling. Monty (press leader) and Debbie will start the discussion about the event. Jill has volunteered to help with the scheduling (confirmed at previous mtg.)

Community Harvest-Sunday August 25th

New Adoption Brochures/Procedures-please review for input on any changes to be made. Debbie wants us to think about it. What is missing and needs to be added or needs to be reworded.

Other items? Rich/Monty asked CORE's approval for purchasing replacement windows for the barn. Purchase of windows was approved for \$180.00

Next meeting: June 4 Tuesday 6pm-8pm