

CORE Minutes-June 7, 2022

Zoom Meeting – 6:00 pm

Attendees: Sue Gurley, Rick Mercier, Jill Worthington, Debbie Klosowski, Barry Crust, Bill Horn (master gardner), Kayla Williams, Kris Docherty

Call to order 6:00-7:30

Approval of Minutes- Minutes for May approved

Treasurer's Report -current balance \$18,188.45 Currently process payment to Jill for tools purchased.

Volunteer Hours – Orchard and Administrative 9.5 volunteer hours from sign in sheets. Administrative hours to Kris

Staff Report- see irrigation notes

Website Update – the website up to date pending the data on concerts and squeeze

Orchard Maintenance

--Irrigation Update – Bill Horn/**Jack Ecklund** Tony states going to turn on irrigation system last week. He is able to increase irrigation in at least one or two zones. Bill Horn asked if there is a map and a schedule of the watering. He contacted Jim Kropf at WSU Pierce County Extension. Jim has contacts in Eastern Washington including an irrigation expert. We can hope suggestions from expert could be sent to staff or Core. We hope we could arrange to ask questions. To answer Tony's question the High Density trees would be the zones to increase irrigation. They have shallow root system, which would be affected, by the increased temperatures.

--Insect trap monitoring update-Debbie with help of volunteers hung the traps and apples in May. On Memorial Day checked the traps and saw no codling moths. Bill Horn reported his trees do not show signs of codling moths. Wet weather may be attributing to the lack of codling moths. **The orchard insect survey revealed apple maggots in the 16 test trees located in the following quadrants: Rows 1-6 (4 maggots); Rows 11-17 (6); Rows 24-27 (11); and Rows 30-36 (2)**

--Spray Update (Rick) City reported that the orchard was sprayed last Friday June 3. We are concerned about the effectiveness of the spraying as it was raining. It was our understanding it would be done on the dry days. Rick removed the Bees by noon on the 30th to accommodate the spraying in dry weather. Debbie will be talking to Jack Ecklund about our concerns. Pictures of our concerns were sent to Bill for his analysis of the problems.

--Mason Bee – Rick put 10,000 bees into the orchard to assure a good harvest. It will be the fall before he will know the number of bees harvested. He felt it was a moderately okay season when asked. He felt that it would have been better had the bees been in the orchard earlier. The late sprays affected when the bees arrived. He would like to discuss the value of fungicides and the late sprays at a future meeting.

-Condition of leaves on trees-Volunteers in the orchard pointed out trees with dead leaves or discolored leaves. Photos have been forward to Bill Horn. Debbie will be sending more pictures.

***2022 Tree Adoptions** – Kayla W. One additional adopter was processed. Barry reminded us when faced with someone requesting to adopt a tree **that** trees with no names on the tree signs are available trees. We anticipate an additional adopter adding another tree. We need feedback from the adopters on tree issues. It would be a goal to come up an easier way to get feedback from more of the adopters. Kayla W. will be working on developing a tool.

What can we do if at the Squeeze attendees want to adopt a tree? Adoption cut off is July 31st. January 1st starts open adoption for new adopters. We cannot hold checks till January per the City. Proposed and approved by the group that an adoption can occur at the Squeeze with application and payment **ONLY** on the day of the squeeze. They can pick a tree not adopted by map or finding a tree that is not currently adopted. (Using Barry's instructions)

*Orchard Activities

-Thinning – Sat, June 4 –There was a good turnout of students. We had some trees ready for thinning while others were not ready. Weather could be attributed to lack of maturity of the apples. Bill pointed out weather can effect pollination process.

***Curtis HS Resource Fair Update** – Jill attended the event which went very well. The event was the first in person since COVID. 150 students and their families attended it. Families stopped to learn about the Orchard.

***Concert Update – Sue**

--Mark Horowitz will do concert Contracts **as part of his MC duties.**

--Publicity - The bands are confirmed and ready for publicity. We will ask Kayla Stewart to use Facebook/Meta and social media to promote the concerts on line.

--Banners have been submitted for updates. Sue will use previous posters with updates if new ones are not produced.

--Donations accepted after concerts- MC will point this out. Barry will have a table for the Donation Can. He will have a table at the squeeze to sell magnets and walking sticks.

--Freezer used by Homestead Park members is now available for fundraisers by other groups. They can be sell ice cream out of the barn. It is not available for use during the Apple Squeeze.

FOREVER FRIENDS dedication- It is scheduled for August 18th, which is date of the last concert JBLM New Orleans Brass Band.

***Cider Squeeze Planning**

Press Operator Response – Larry reported at last meeting 7 confirmed **so we have a total of 10 presses available for the squeeze at this time.**

Band – Debbie confirmed that the Sunset Bible Church band enthusiastically confirmed their participation.

Volunteer Coordinator- Jill will assume that role of Volunteer Coordinator

Approved purchases-liners, 300 jugs and apples amount to be determined after harvest.

Signs- Do not pick till after Squeeze need too be made.

Trader Joe's will be participating

Food- Volunteer Pressers need food. As there will be no food truck, Jill will contact business regarding sandwiches or pizza

Reminder Molly Wolfe's memorial in the orchard is on the 25th at 2pm.

Next Meeting: Consensus of the group the next meeting at the Barn will be July 5th.