

CORE September Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 5, 2023

Microsoft team Meeting ID 273 687 066 716 password uV8wEJ or

Call in 509-342-7253 or attend in person

UP Civic Building – 2nd floor Conference Room

3609 Marketplace W – take elevator up to 2nd floor

Attendees: Monty Stranski, Bill Horn (master gardener), Jenny, Jessica Hannity, Jill Worthington, Sue Gurley, Debbie Klosowski, Richard Knowles, Rick Mercier, Barry Crust, Tony West (supervisor park maintenance), Kris Docherty

Approval of Minutes August minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report -Sue \$15,928.71 core balance This does not include concert and cider squeeze expenses.

Volunteer Hours – We had 5 pages of volunteer hours and names for a total of 232.4 hours for August.

Staff Report- Tony updated the core that there was a spray done on August 21st. Jill will provide Tony with her tour dates to pass on to spray contractor. There is one more spray due. Irrigation update zone 9 not done but there are moneys available for it to be done in the future. Tony gave the group an overview of proposed changes in other parks.

Website - no changes

***August Activity Recaps** What went well, suggestions for future, possible date changes?

--High Density Harvest

--Jill Volunteers –She started with Russian Treats from one of the volunteers. Our success of picking ,and bagging apples was made possible due the work of the Mormon Missionaries, along with other volunteers. In addition to the harvesting the volunteers raked and cleaned the high-density area. Clean up went well and quickly. Rick suggested that we send a Thank you to the Mormon Missionaries for their help. They helped at the Adopters squeeze too.

--Spray Issue High Density Area – This area had a horrible insect infestation that effected the quality of the apples. There was a question regarding how the contractor is spraying the area. Does the contractor have the code to High Density so that they can enter the high-density area? **YES** The early picking of the area was a good decision. There was a variety that could have been picked a week earlier. Bill H pointed out that better thinning would help the insect infestation. The contractor's staff may not be familiar with spraying an orchard vs home fruit tree spraying. CORE would like for next year for the city to communicate our concerns. For the future CORE will need to come up with a plan to avoid bagging apples not suitable for pressing. We still have windfalls. It was suggested that picking windfalls could be part of harvesting apples. We used to have available buckets to remove windfall but only 3 buckets remain. Debbie has sent a reminder to adopters to return the buckets. It is not known who has the buckets.

-There was a question about what was sprayed in the orchard. We use commercial sprays Delegate and Arena. They are not available to home gardener. We made attempts to control insects organically but due to feral fruit trees in the area it did not work. We were losing adopters based on the poor quality of the apples. Bill Horn and Rick Mercier can be contacted for more information.

--City sponsored "Volunteer Appreciation Cider Squeeze" Feedback from event. We will decide later if this is part of our future.

--Monty Press Area-Bill H was a savior and mentored us. Squeeze went amazingly well per Bill but lacked adopters. Lack of adopters can be contributed to the late decision to cancel the community Cider Squeeze. The volunteer staffing was excellent support for the press operators . They were scheduled for 4 loads an hour. They /we could have done 6 loads or more an hour.

For future events, we need at least a couple 100 food grade gloves, and the flywheel presses have safety issues to be addressed. The presses will need safety guards especially if more children get near the presses. If we have more presses who will do safety inspections? It maybe something we will need to cover when recruiting outside presses in the future. We noticed there was interested on how to run presses. We could in future plan a day to teach others how to operate presses. This could help us recruit press people to run the presses at future events. Clean-up of presses require removing all residue. Clean-up will take a lot of time at the end as must be clean before storing the presses. We will need more hoses for cleanup.

--Jill Volunteers and Adopter Sign up- great support from volunteers but low sign up of adopters for squeeze. Short notice may have affected the adopter sign ups. Summer plans probably already set.

-Kayla -signage needs to be improved regarding how the participants move from beginning to end. Big arrow sign should be used. It was observed participants missing the check in for pressing while others patiently waited their turn.

-Jessica was impressed with efficiency of the group. On 8/19 she removed from the orchard 1,615 lbs. of windfall and mash. After working in the orchard 9:30 to 1:00 distribute 147 lbs. to Food is Free Tacoma, 797 lbs. apples to Spin Cider and 671 lbs. to Bowed G Family Farms. Windfalls cleanup was done with the help of the Mormon Missionaries. Recently, Jessica called the Mormon Missionaries to check on their availability. They can come and help with one week notice. CORE is giving her access to the orchard with the gate combination for apple collection with the use of trucks and trailer. Rick clarified no off-road driving due to irrigation tubing.

-Sue agrees better signage would help at the squeeze. Her apples this year was good a better insect year than in the past 85% of her apples were excellent.

Community Harvest Day – There was good turnout of the community with a lot of families. It would have been better with more lead time for the community. We reverted to adopter only squeeze after we discovered so few presses available. It was felt that the one-on-one conversation was very productive and informative for the participants. Monty distributed 20 brochures and received 3 contributions in his two hours in the orchard. CORE mingled with the people. It helped not having to manage a Community Cider Squeeze. There could be one on one conversations with participants. We learned that there was a Curran Orchard in Illinois providing family friendly event on the same day.

***Orchard Maintenance-review**

-Spray Update -updates by Tony and CORE concerns mentioned under the High -Density section.

-Do Not Pick Status- Debbie observed community respected the tape and do not pick signs

-Broken Tree – one tree was identified as needing a limb removed a winter banana 28-1. Debbie asked for volunteer to remove the limb.

***Concert Recap** – Sue stated the concerts were well attended. This year Sue was in the area to observe the concerts. Mark Hurwitz did a fabulous job as MC and setting up the lineup of bands. He made announcements, promoted adoptions and volunteering. He directed attendees to the website for any additional information. It was suggested that CORE man a table to promote the orchard or have a sign available to promote the orchard. This would be in addition to the applications at than each entrance. In the past CORE staffed a table with application and volunteer information. No one visited us at our table. Attendees are focused on enjoying the concerts. A sandwich board idea near the bandstand which is removable was agreed upon. There was a question regarding inclement weather on the day of the concerts. Last concert was experiencing rain. How will we know if the site moved? By noon a sign will be posted at the orchard announcing the move. Last concert could not be moved as our alternative site was not available due to a football game.

***Tours** – Jill Tour schedule is 4 weeks and 3 weeks are booked up. UP school District's Community Transition Program has been helping with picking up windfalls. They come with paraprofessionals who help too.

***Tree Adoption Process review** – Kayla identified the problem with emails not being answered. The Google security was established with child protocols. Hence, it screened out all calls with no rejection notice to the senders that they were screened out.

Who should be given access to Gmail. Kayla Stewart, Jill Worthington, Debbie Klosowski and Kayla W Mailbox was a problem last year. The mailbox is paid up to 1/27/24.

Money must go to Kayla.

Sue takes the money to City.

Who wants access to send out emails to adopters? Kayla W, Debbie and Jill

Kayla believes in protecting the privacy of the adopters so would never print or distribute adopter list with emails or addresses. With a valid reason, an email request will be provided.

How can we improve our process for notification of adoptions for getting names on trees sign? Barry wants the new adopters names when they come in rather than waiting to send a group. "one by one"
Detailed info on tree adopters – It has been requested that lists be done with larger font.
Barry has started to remove adopter's names off the current signs. It is the only way he can be ready for the new adoptions in January. A couple members pointed out that they are keeping their trees to help with his workload.

***Other -Orchard Clean up question** is there a schedule when dumpsters will be removed. There is a lot of apples still on the ground. They are here till we ask for removal.

Jessica asked when adopted trees are released for gleaner picking. Harvest Pierce County combines picking apples and windfalls removal at the same time. They do not provide windfall pick up without picking the trees at the same time. Core noted that apples mature at different times. The adopters are entitled to the apples. The Adopters can remove their tree's tape to signal availability to pick the remaining crop. Bill pointed out for those planning on making cider keeping the apples on the tree increases the sugar content. The final decision is that Kayla will let the adopters know they have till October 15th to pick their tree. The tours will be over by then. When we review the website for next year, we may consider adjusting the adoption time to include a picking deadline.

Monty pointed out that the east side of the barn was showing wear and insulation is showing. Tony and Debbie pointed out the barn maintenance has been a CORE responsibility. Barry painted 3 years ago with grandsons the barn and applied additional screws to siding. Debbie suggested a subcommittee be formed to assess what needs to be done.

Looking for a better way to deliver and receive funds vs using checks/cash. There is a group of individuals that do not own check books. We are not a 501C3. We have decided in the past not to apply to be a 501C3.

Future Topics

- Revise Adoption Brochures
- Set 2024 dates...avoid conflicts such as Natl Night Out and Duck Daze
- Barn Clean Up Date
- PowerPoint Revision for website postponed till November
- Help Barry with adopter tree signs

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 2023 6pm-8pm