

**CORE March Minutes**  
**Tuesday March 5, 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:** Barry Crust, Jackson Guzzo(Park Maintenance Lead),Bill Horn ( Master Gardener), Monty Stranski, Rick Mercier, Rich Knowles, Kayla Stewart, Debbie Klosowski, Kris Docherty

**Approval of Minutes-** February Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report - \$12,576.60 2024 expenses were renewal of PO Box \$282, pruning banner, pruning reduction contract and Barry's signs.

**Volunteer Hours** February orchard hours-229 Orchard Hours

**Staff Report-** Jackson had two items to discuss. First, Jackson gave an update on irrigation project. In the Spring , he will schedule with the remaining funds rows, 28,29,and 30. Barry reported the irrigation tubing on 37-1 is in pieces. Debbie requested a door on the portable toilet be fixed so it locks. Second, April 20<sup>th</sup> is Park Appreciation Day. Jackson asked CORE what they would want volunteers to be done on that day. Pruning will be completed so CORE decided on mulching around the trees, **dragging any remaining branches to the dumpster** and removal of suckers.

**Website -** ok

**\*Orchard Maintenance-review**

-Debbie has requested that UP refuse empty the dumpster.

-Debbie created a list of trees needing branch pick up. Cross out the trees when the pickup has been done. In addition, branches in the grass need to be picked up to help the city mowers.

-Rick asked if the date has been set for the next spray. When it is set Core needs that information to avoid going there on the spray day. Tony has asked but has not heard back. Bees will go in the orchard after the spray is done.

**-Pruning Parties Updates**

– Last pruning party had a good turnout. There were a dozen adults plus kids.

-There is a list of the trees to be pruned by core. Debbie has reviewed it. She has placed NB next to some of the trees . These trees are not bad so their pruning can be delayed. Debbie has made an additional list of trees that have not been adopted which need pruning. Debbie asks Core if they would approve offering Robert and Ian a contract to help with the pruning. Core approved offering Robert and Ian a contract for pruning up to \$1000. They would be asked to help complete the adopter list of those needing pruning then move on to the worse unadopted trees.

-Volunteer Update- Jill was not in attendance . She contacted Debbie asking for 4 trees to be set aside for the students as their hours are nearly the same. She would prefer trees that the students have worked on during their time in the orchard. Barry

suggested that we post picture of the student winners on city publication. The group concluded that could only be done with parental permission. Jill would like **all** the high school kids that are there on the **final pruning date** be given an **invitation** to participate in our adopter apple squeeze with CORE's approval. The winners of the challenge will be added to our adopters' list.

Question was asked when you prune from the list are you required to mulch the tree. The answer was no. We have students and other volunteers to do the mulching.

**Feb 28-** Master Gardener training **occurred despite bad weather.**

**Tree Adoption Updates** -There are currently 83 adopted trees. Confirmation letters have been sent. Debbie has renewed the Post Office box.(\$282)

**Wedding tree updates-** Debbie has received \$75 from the groom for the semi dwarf Honey Crisp. It has been ordered from Raintree Nursery. It will be delivered to the Public Works Shop. They may want to take the tree to their wedding ceremony. They chose row 8 tree 6 which puts the tree next a pollinator tree. At last meeting Tony confirmed it has irrigation. It will need to be protected from the deer, so livestock fence was suggested by Bill. Barry asked about the adoption policy when you purchase a tree for the orchard and what should be on the tree sign. First 3 years there no adoption fee. Someone will need to check with the groom what they prefer on their sign.

### **Summer Concerts-Sue**

**Other items?** **Rick reported on his** bee presentation. One of his goals is educating the attendees about the mason bees and the importance of bees. Another goal was to encourage mason bee care takers to clean cocoons and the nesting blocks yearly to protect the bees from birds, mice, ants, spiders, moth, and invasive parasites. There was another option presented to help extend the life of the bees. RentMasonBees.com is a service that provides the bees and rents the nesting blocks. They will pick up the nesting blocks to clean the cocoons and remove harmful predators. The renter gets the pollination but does not have to deal with maintenance of the cleaning of cocoons and nesting blocks.

**Next meeting: April 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 6pm-8pm**