

CORE Minutes- April 5, 2022

Zoom Meeting – 6:00 pm

Attendees: Kayla Williams, Barry Crust, Sue Gurley, Rick Mercier, Bill Horn, Debbie Klosowski, Larry Warwick. Kris Docherty

Call to order 6:00-7:30

Approval of Minutes- March minutes approved

Treasurer's Report -Sue reported the orchard being billed \$1200 by Senske Lawn and Tree vs. Washington Tree Inc. Sue will clarify with the city regarding the bill. The Orchard is responsible for paying for one spray. Per Goggle search, Senske Lawn and Tree acquired Washington Tree Service, Inc., which explains the bill. Total adoptions / support money received to date is \$4690. Total available funds for the Orchard are \$20,254.79.

Volunteer Hours – Orchard 198.5 and Administrative

Staff Report- Tony complemented Core regarding how the orchard looks with the pruning and mulching around the trees. There appears to be a survey stick in the upper orchard near the house. Debbie will ask Tony about it.

Website Update –Debbie asked for any comments from the group on the new website. There were positive responses to the new look. Debbie will take our feedback to Lori.

Orchard Maintenance

--**Irrigation Update** –Debbie and Jack Ecklund who is the City Engineer and interim public works/parks director discussed the roadblocks to increased water to the trees. The roadblocks were the cost of replacing current system \$316,000 and the Well limits under current permits. Jack Ecklund plans to attend the Core's May Zoom meeting. Debbie will send an email with the details regard in the financial issues and well limitations. We would like to know that the quote came from someone well versed in orchard irrigation. Bill suggested we contact WSU to get information from someone in Eastern Washington with expertise on this issue. In the mean time, we may need to focus on specific areas rather than the whole orchard for irrigation. Bill Horn pointed out one area should be the high-density area. These trees have very shallow root systems. As a result, they would need more water than a mature tree with deeper root systems. The increased summer temperatures will affect the high -density trees more.

--**Spray Update** (Rick) Fungicide was sprayed. He does not know what was sprayed.

--**Mason Bee** – Rick has placed 10,000 bees in the orchard. The appearance of the codling moth dictates when the bees are removed. When the moths arrive it would be time to spray an insecticide. This type of spray will kill the bees. **It is important that communication between the Spray Company, City and CORE happens to avoid spraying when the bees are in the orchard.** Failure to protect the bees would eliminate the bees being used in the orchard.

--Maintenance/project request list –no requests

-Pruning Saw replacements-**IAN** - tabled

*2022 Tree Adoptions – Kayla W.

-Total adoptions -105

***Tree Signage** – Larry and Barry -Barry inventoried the orchard for trees/variety not adopted. Kayla will provide the barn with an updated list of trees available for adoptions. This will help when someone comes to the orchard during pruning days requesting a certain type of tree to adopt.

*Orchard Activities

-Height Reduction- Debbie confirmed the identified trees have been completed. She checked them out and report to the City to expedite the payment to Darwin.

-Pruning Status of trees/updated kiosk lists –Pruning is done for the year. There was a concern that adopters were not coming out to prune their trees.

-Work Party April 2 Update-There were 4 students that worked hard removing branches. We hope they return.

-Work Party April 16- we have a lot of branches to move off the grass. Jill will be coordinating as she did last pruning day. Core members are welcome to provide support. Kayla will do an email to adopters for help with branch removal and mulching. Mowing cannot be done with the current piles pointed out by Barry.

-Insect Class/Hanging Traps May 7 from 9am-10am Bill will be doing this in person. It would be helpful if adopters RSVP. It will help Bill determine what material is needed. In regards to the traps CORE will be placing the traps in the 16 test trees. Same process as CORE used last year. After the class Bill will be available for tool sharpening instruction.

-Mason Bee Class? This needs to be done in January/February. Rick could not obtain space earlier in the year due to COVID restrictions.

***Curtis HS Resource Fair April 11 5-7pm – Jill has material for participating.**

***Concert Update –** Sue has response to the letter to the Mayor. The city will provide a food truck for the concerts with city approval 7/7, 7/21, 8/4 and 8/18. The request for the city to pay for the MC is still pending. There was a proposal to eliminate the food trucks and ask CITY to pay for the MC instead. Sue will be meeting with Marian Holloway.

--Concert Dates, Publicity, Food, MC-There have been 8-band request to play. There has been no decision. Our budget is \$1000. We are hoping for 2 military bands and 2 additional bands.

--Forever Friends Dedication? - UP will Arts would like a half hour before the initial concert to dedicate the Horse Statute.

***Other**

Fun Run date will be July 30th which starts and end in the orchard. They can help us for using the orchard.

Cider Squeeze Discussion – Permit for the Squeeze is still pending. The proposed date is Sunday August 28th. Larry is working on the list of available press operators. He will report which pressers are available at the May meeting.

Tree Height – There was discussion as to whether 12 feet tree height was too high. How does it affect adopter's ability to prune their trees? What is good for the trees? There will be a new assessment in the fall.

A new addition to the orchard is a wattle fence. We want to thank the team of Larry, Barry and Jill who are responsible for the construction. It is made of pruned limbs and moss from the orchard. It is located outside the entrance to the barn.

Thinning Work Party Sat, June 4 10am to noon (high density, espalier)

Next Meeting: Tues, May 3, 2022