

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

May 21, 2024, 6:00pm

MINUTES

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Brent Bockelman, Larry Walter, Jennifer Romano, Bryan Smethers
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and asked from a motion to approve the April 2024 minutes. Brent made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Larry. A vote was taken; all voted “aye”.

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update - Janice
 - No update at this time
- Tree Steward Training - Jeff
 - Currently underway in Auburn
 - PPTs will be made available
 - Training is very worthwhile and practical
- Tree Board Member Guidelines and Changes to Ordinances Related to Trees - Brent
 - Still in process
- Report to Council - Janice
 - Janice provided a report on May 14, 2024
 - Mentioned our activities, First Fridays and Arbor Day, and goal of planting no less than 100 trees per year
- First Friday
 - We were able to conduct some surveys – most people want more trees
 - Our “Huggy the Tree” costume had not arrived yet
 - Jennifer was able to obtain stickers which were handed out
 - Some indicated they would like a tree in their right-of-way
 - Janice presented activities related to trees
 - Saplings where available as well
 - Larry suggested we bring leaf compost next time to show what is done with leaves picked up by the city
- Tree Trimming
 - Trimming has been completed
 - Chip inspected their work

- Larry will be surveying streets to locate other areas where attention may be required
- Jeff will be trimming and maintain the cherry trees on Main Street and may do some work on the trees at the west entrance of the city

NEW BUSINESS

- Radio Road Project
 - Helping to sponsor project could contribute to our goal of planting 100 trees in 2024
 - Brent suggested that we add trees to the project in addition to their budgeted proposal rather than contributing financially
 - Chip will be asked to look into this possibility
- New Member to Finish Jessica Burkett's Term
 - Martha Acres has agreed to complete her term (which ends in October 2024)
- Plant Tree on High School Campus for next Arbor Day
 - Neither of the elementary schools celebrated Arbor Day this year
 - Students at the high school need a capstone project which could involve a tree planting at the high school next year
 - Location could be where one of the original plantings has died
 - Jennifer suggested that we also approach Faith Christian Academy. **Larry moved that we plant a Sugar Maple at the school before the end of the academic year. Brent seconded, all were in favor.** Jennifer will contact the school and Brent will make the arrangements for the planting.
- Tree Keeper Corrections
 - Janice communicated a few changes to Larry who will make changes in the program.
 - Larry also made the changes following the arborist's recent removals.
- Stump Grinder
 - The city purchased a new stump for \$4500 which is coming out of our budget.
- Permission to Plant Tree
 - Owner (Thomas Behn) has interest in planting two trees in the right-of-way at his address on 114 E Hanna Street. Jennifer made motion, Bryan seconded, all in favor to plant tree(s) at his address.
- Eagle Park Planning

- We will invite Matt Heiden (Parks and Recreation) to an upcoming meeting to discuss plans for landscaping
- Local businesses may be interested in contributing financially to tree planting efforts

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary