

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

June 18, 2024 – 6:00pm

MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - \$28,341 on hand
 - Stump grinder and pruning have been paid
- Report on Arbor Day Tree Plant
 - A sugar maple was planted at Faith Christian Academy
- Update on Tree Board Member Guidelines
 - Brent was not present to follow up
- Radio Road Project
 - We would like to participate but not fund the initial project. However, we would be willing to contribute additional funding if there is opportunity to expand the project with additional trees.
- Tree Trimming
 - On Site Tree Service completed the work
 - The silver maple on Marshall will be removed by the Work’s Dept.
- High School Tree Planting
 - Did not take place as there was not agreement regarding location

NEW BUSINESS

- DNR Division of Forestry – Urban Forestry Projects
 - Chip is working with Lori Shipman and will meet with her this Friday to review several grant opportunities
- Retaining a Certified Arborist
 - **Larry moved we retain an arborist until such time as we have our own city arborist. We will budget \$2000 for this year (maximum of 20 hours) and ask that they access the condition of our trees** (Martha seconded the motion carried). Larry will investigate and report back.

Meeting adjourned at (6:52pm).

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary