

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

September 23, 2024 – 5:00pm

MINUTES

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Martha Acres, Larry Walter, Chip Hill, Jennifer Romano, Bryan Smethers, Brent Bockelman
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve minutes of July’s meeting. Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jennifer. A vote was taken; all voted “aye”. We did not have minutes available for the August meeting. Approval is pending.

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - Chip will provide an update at a later date.
 - We did not get the tree grant from the DNR for urban trees.
 - \$22,269 was our budget for 2024.
 - At the end of the year, unspent funds will be transferred to a purchase order for new trees so that the funding is not lost.

NEW BUSINESS

- First Friday Plans for Booth
 - Friday October 4th
 - Brent will dress up as Huggy, and he and Janice will walk through the crowd greeting people and handing out information about the tree board as well as candy for the kids.
- Tree Planting – September 28 – 9:00am
 - We have 11 trees to plant. Chip will consult our list of potential locations; Janice and her crew will get the holes dug have the posts and mulch on hand and Larry will bring the water.
- Additional Trees
 - Larry moved, **“That we use no more than \$5000 to purchase new trees to be planted this fall.”** Seconded, by Jennifer, Carried
 - Jeff will check with JB Landscaping and Larry will contact Shade Trees Unlimited to see if we can purchase any additional trees. We prefer smaller caliber 1.5 – 1.75 and no maples.
- Arborist and Assessment of our Trees
 - Seth Slabaugh (certified arborist) will provide us with an estimate to evaluate our city trees. Larry will travel along with him. This will allow us to also update our Tree Keeper Inventory.

Meeting adjourned at (5:40pm).

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary