

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City
October 15, 2024 – 6:00pm

MINUTES

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Brent Bockelman, Larry Walter, Chip Hill, Jennifer Romano, Bryan Smethers

- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August and September minutes. Bryan made a motion to approve the August minutes, seconded by Janice. Larry made a motion to approve the September minutes, seconded by Jennifer. A vote was taken; all voted “aye” to approving both sets of minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Report
 - \$26,869.19 currently on hand

- Recap of September 28 Tree Planting
 - Jennifer will publish photos on social media
 - One tree was damaged in the recent wind storm and will need to be replaced in the future

- First Friday
 - First appearance of Huggy the Tree
 - Suggested t-shirts are needed for tree board members and for Huggy. Jennifer will work on the design, and Chip will get them ordered

- Janice updated us on the trees blocking stop signs at Graber Court and Thornapple Court.
 - Trimming has taken place so that the stop signs are no longer blocked from view.

- Discussion with Seth Slabaugh (certified arborist)
 - Discussed hourly rate and assessment of existing trees. He said it might take some time to determine how many hours are needed to fulfill the role and he would need input regarding what sort of assessment we require, i.e. evaluation from the ground, or actually climbing the tree to get a more comprehensive view.
 - Being able to make periodic calls when there is an issue requiring attention would be helpful in determining a fee structure. Larry will work with Seth to survey our trees and Seth will present us with a proposal at our next meeting with a goal of having a contract set for the start of 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

- Vacancy on Tree Board
 - Martha Acres has indicated that she will not continue serving on the board.
 - In the past, there was discussion regarding Dan Knuth. Chip will pass the information on to the mayor for his consideration.

- End of the Year Tree Planting
 - We have quotes from two sources and the average price per tree is about \$130. With planting and staking the total cost per tree would be approximate \$250 total.
 - Jeff will work in determining locations in the remainder of Hanna Extended, and then work on Deer Chase, Chesapeake Landing and Cambridge Crossing.
 - **Moved by Larry to create a purchase order in the amount of \$20,000 for the purchase of trees and the labor to plant them before year-end. Seconded by Brent. All in favor.**
 - Larry will request a quote on trees and planting from Shade Trees Unlimited and Bryan will solicit some other quotes on planting. Janice will also provide us with a quote from Daniel Landscaping.

- Door Hangers
 - Jeff presented a proposal and text for door hangers to be used when we plant trees. It would provide homeowners with information regarding the care of the tree planted in front of their home. We'll wait to have our logo completed and then will pursue printing.

Meeting adjourned at (time).

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary