

## **TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City**

November 19, 2024, 6:00pm

### **MINUTES**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Financial Update
  - We currently have a balance of \$26,619.49 on hand.
  - A water tank and some fittings were purchased.
- Vacancy Filled
  - Dan Knuth – has lived locally his entire life and loves trees.
- Revisit New Build Ordinance and Tree List
  - Will use the list for the city tree plan rather than have two lists. That list can be amended if necessary.
  - We will work on the instruction regarding the location of trees in the New Year.
- Update on Seth Slabaugh (Arborist)
  - Seth has been active assessing our trees using a list that Larry provided.
  - Larry has recorded these observations and recommendations in Tree Keeper.
  - Seth will provide us with a priority “cut list” with approximately 30 trees requiring removal over the winter by the City Works Department.
  - Seth suggested a fee of \$1500 for an assessment of all our trees, and an hourly rate of \$35 per hour should we need to call him out to address a need. It is the board’s belief that he is under-selling his services and requires additional consideration.
- Tree Board Attire for Events
  - Jennifer is working on the artwork.
- Tree Locations: Hanna Street Extended
  - Jeff presented the current list of all the remaining addresses where a tree could be planted.

- Work will be needed to identify where utilities may negate our ability to plant trees at some addresses.
- In some cases, we may be able to plant in the easement between the sidewalk and the homeowner's property line to avoid issues with utilities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- End of Year Tree Planting Bids
  - Faul Trees – All trees are balled and measure 1.75". Price range from \$175 to \$200. No bid for planting was received.
  - Shade Tree Unlimited – All trees measure 1.5" Prices range from \$115-140.
  - Daniel Landscaping provided a bid to plant up to 100 trees, with a one-year warranty, for \$11,000.
- **Motion made by Brent, seconded by Larry to accept the bid from Daniel Landscaping to plant \$100 minus the \$1500 for the one-year warranty. Also, we approved the purchase of 100 trees from Shade Tree Unlimited. Carried**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.**

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary