

**TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City**  
February 18, 2025 – 5:30pm

**MINUTES**

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Brent Bockelman, Chip Hill, Bryan Smethers, Dan Knuth (Absent) Larry Walter, Jennifer Romano
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and reviewed some of the key discussions from our last meeting. Jennifer Romano will provide minutes from our most recent meeting next month.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Financial Update
  - Currently at \$39,978.
- Revisit Building Ordinance
  - Chip and Brent will meet to review the current ordinance and will get back to us with recommendations.
  - Dan reviewed the tree list and determined which are generally available from local tree sources. Jeff will create a new document. We will work from this list and allow developers to request exceptions from the tree board.
- Tree Inspections
  - The inspection of the trees throughout the city will be completed soon. Seth, our city arborist will be invited to our next meeting to provide us with an update.
- Tree Trimming
  - Due to weather conditions, the city crew has not made much progress just yet. However, two silver maples on E Jackson, that our arborist recommended removing, have been cut down.
  - **Motion by Brent: That we replant trees wherever trees are removed, unless for some reason locating a tree in the same location would cause a problem. MSC**
- Door Hanger
  - Jeff will contact printers (including Tree City USA) to get quotes. The hangers will include our new logo and the text Jeff provided.
- Tree Board Attire
  - **Motion by Dan: That we approve scheme number one for our tree board attire. MSC**

- Janice will take the logo to Running Around and bring back some recommendations. The team prefers a performance type fabric, possibly in a light khaki color.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Goals for 2025
  - Update our Tree Management Plan
  - Complete Tree List and update Ordinances and communicate with the Planning Commission
  - Complete our plantings in the Hanna Extended Neighborhood
  - Target some new plantings for Eagle Park, perhaps even launching a tree sponsorship program in the community. Brent will look into providing people opportunity to sponsor tree plantings in memory of loved ones through our funeral homes.
  - Determine where future street trees need to be planted so that when funding becomes available we can act quickly.
- Planting of Remaining 42 Trees from 2024
  - We will divide the planting of the remaining trees between the Hanna Extended neighborhood and some more public areas.
- Arbor Day Planning – April 25th
  - Feature Huggy the Tree
  - Dan will contact Little Turtle School
  - Brent will check on obtaining saplings to distribute among students.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm**

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary