

**TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City**  
May 20, 2025

**MINUTES**

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Chip Hill, Bryan Smethers, Dan Knuth  
Absent: Brent Bockelman, Larry Walter, Jennifer Romano
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order. Jennifer was not able to attend and so we will have to wait to approve the minutes from our April meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Financial Update
  - We currently stand at \$43,942. We will be paying Seth (arborist) this coming week. We also paid for the books to gift to the Little Turtle School library on Arbor Day.
- Review new build ordinance and tree list for planning commission
  - Nothing new to discuss until Brent returns
- Discussion on tree removal along Main St
  - Removed in front of JLS.
  - **In the future, home/business owners must present a request for removal, either in person or by letter, to the board for our consideration before a tree will be removed (*Moved, seconded, carried*)**
  - No trees will be planted adjacent to the JLS property at this time.
- Update on funeral memorials
  - No new progress, but Jennifer is working on some form of brochure.
  - There was discussion that memorial trees could be planted along our trail system.
- Recap of First Friday activities
  - Hugger the Tree was very well received by all ages. Lots of hugs and photos.
  - The trees were very popular (tulip trees especially). We will order all tulip trees next year.
  - Jackson Lash was the winner of the charcuterie board that Janice's husband made for us.
  - We will not participate in the mid-summer events, but will the last First Friday of the year.
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- Door Hangers - Jeff
  - A sample was passed around. Chip will store them in his office.
  
- Arbor Day Recap
  - Dan did a great job with planning and contacting the school. The event worked out well and the program was well received.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- No new business at this time

**Meeting adjourned at 6:42pm**

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary