

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

August 19, 2025, 6:00pm

MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - We currently stand at \$35,963.
 - Chip purchased a set of loppers for tree trimming
 - Interns helped trim and limb-up the cherry trees along Main St
- Revisit new build ordinance and tree list for planning commission
 - Reviewed the tree list and all were favorable. It was mentioned that developer/owners may go beyond the listed trees, but only if they have the selection approved by the tree board
 - Chip and Brent will return with a recommendation regarding changes to the ordinance for our next meeting.
- Update on funeral memorials
 - All funeral homes are willing to participate.
 - Chip will ask Leslie Robinson about setting up an account to receive the funds.
 - Brent will ask his daughter if she would be willing to help us with the writing and layout of the information and response cards we will place at funeral homes.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tree requests for removal or new planting
 - Business owner at South Raber Rd, with a storage facility has asked if we would plant peach trees in the right-of-way. Overhead power lines would not permit normal shade tree. The consensus was that we could plant as many as two trees, but would like other shade trees. Brent will follow up.
 - Larry suggested we begin creating a removal list before the winter months.
 - Resident on 109 Wayne St has requested the replacement of a tree that died. Janice will arrange to have it replaced.

- Ace trees
 - Motion was made by Brent to purchase all of the larger trees from the list we received from Ace (30 trees). Janice seconded the motion; all were in favor.
 - We will use the red maples to replace the cherry trees currently lining Main Street at the south entry to the city.
- First Fridays for September and October
 - October only – Jeff will play “Huggy”
 - Leaf pressing, and tree ID activities (Janice)

Meeting adjourned at (6:38pm).

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary