

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City
June 17, 2025 – Columbia City

M I N U T E S

- Roll Call (Present) Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Larry Walter, Chip Hill, Bryan Smethers, Dan Knuth (Absent) Brent Bockelman (Remote) Jennifer Romano
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the May 2025 minutes as corrected. Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dan. A vote was taken; all voted “aye”.

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - We \$35,963 currently on hand. However, we have yet to plant the trees left from 2024.
- Revisit New Build Ordinance and Tree List for Planning Commission
 - Tabled until Brent Bockelman is able to return.
- Update on Funeral Memorials
 - Discussed markers to acknowledge in who’s a tree might be planted. Concern expressed that markers could be stolen or tree die – What would we do then?
 - Suggested that memorial trees would be generalized, but that individual families would be welcome to place a marker at the base of one of those trees and we could record its location in Tree Keeper.
 - Markers could take the form of engraved rocks (granite)
- Continued Discussion Regarding Tree Removal Policy
 - We discussed the decision made last month for some who were not part of the discussion that preceded the motion which we approved. No change.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tree Requests for Removal and New Planting
 - No new requests at this time
 - There was discussion regarding a tree on private property, but we are not going to respond to issues related to trees that are not on city property.
- Eagle Park
 - We were surprised, but not opposed, to hear that some landscaping has taken place. Thus far, it’s not an issue as it was designed by a landscape architect.

- Chip will have the Parks Department install gator bags around the trees and ensure they are refilled regularly.
- Fallen Tree
 - Located at 216 Chauncey, a spruce tree that belongs to the city, needs to be removed.
 - Chip will see what we can do.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39pm.

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary