

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City
September 16, 2025, 6:00pm

M I N U T E S

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update: \$39.829. We received our first “in memorium” funeral home donation this past month.
- First Friday in October
 - Jeff will get tree stickers; Chip will order maple candy to award kids for various activities.
 - Bryan will bring a canopy in case it’s needed.
- Peach Tree Request on South Edge of Town
 - Owner would be happy with both peach and shade trees.
 - Janice will purchase the trees and plant them. The shade trees will be of a shorter variety so as to not interfere with overhead lines.
- Ace Hardware Trees
 - Daniel Landscaping picked up the trees and they will be planted once the weather cools and we get more rain.
- Update on funeral memorials
 - Brent has spoken with his daughter and she would be happy to work on materials for us.

NEW BUSINESS

- Larry Walter’s Resignation
 - We are very grateful for Larry work on the tree board and dedication to making our city both a greener and healthier place to live.
 - Larry had a month left in his term, which Brent will complete. We therefore have a vacancy the needs to be filled by the mayor. One name was suggested.

- Dan will work at learning to maintain Tree Keeper. We also will need to appoint a new vice president in the new year in Larry's absence.
- New Tree Request
 - There have been requests for removal, but none were our responsibility.
- Division of Forestry Grant Opportunities
 - Moved by Brent, seconded by Bryan to have Lori Shipman work on the current Division of Forestry "Small Town, Big Trees" grant opportunities. Carried
- DNR Seedlings for Spring First Friday
 - Dan will contact the DNR about obtaining trees to give away during the spring First Friday events.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary