

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

November 18, 2025, 6:00pm

MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - Currently on hand - \$30,888.62. Costs included the trees from Teghtmeyer Ace Hardware and some additional trees purchased from Shade Trees Unlimited.
- Tree Planting – 2024 Inventory Trees
 - All 72 of the trees from our 2024 inventory have been planted – Radio Road (15), Fire Museum (5), Eagle Park (?), Kid’s Dreamland (9), DeVol Field (6), Pathway in Morsches Park (15), and at a number of addresses where residents requested a tree in the right of way in front of their homes.
 - A Princeton Elm was planted in honor of John LeFever, and another tree in honor of Gloria Smith will be planted this month.
 - Our thanks to the Daniel Landscaping team for their services in planting these trees and some remaining before the year’s end.
- Peach Tree Request
 - Those will be planted this month along with Silk Ivory Lilacs.
- Funeral Trees
 - Brent’s daughter is still working on the creation of literature.
- Grant – Small Towns
 - Chip will communicate with Lori Shipman regarding this grant opportunity for our community.
- City Tree Ordinance
 - Brent and Chip have yet to meet before we proceed with recommendation for change to the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jennifer Romano Resignation from Board
 - Jennifer has been an enthusiastic member and has creatively contributed to our tree planting efforts.
- Welcome New Member – Jim Christl
 - Jim has lived in the community just north of town where has planted many trees on his property. He is occupying the position recently vacated by Larry Walter.
 - We still have one appointment to be made by the mayor.
- Remaining Funds 2025
 - Dan informed us that about 100 trees require trimming or removal. Dan will work with Seth (our arborist) to provide a list of those he considers highest priority, and which can be completed by the City Works Department and which will require his expertise.
 - Moved, seconded and carried – **“Before the end of the year, Daniel Landscaping will purchase 24 trees to replace the choke-cherries on Main Street and in 8 publicly visible areas that remain on our list 2025 list of potential locations.”**
- Stump Grinding
 - Once the city has replaced its stump grinding equipment, 8 stumps will be ground-out by the City Works Department and the trees will be replaced relatively close to the existing location.

Meeting adjourned at (6:45pm).

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary