

TREE BOARD – City of Columbia City

Sept 15, 2026, 6:00pm



MINUTES

- Roll Call
 - Members Present: Janice Daniel, Jeff Bleijerveld, Brent Bockelman, Bryan Smethers, Dan Knuth, Jim Christl (Absent: Amanda Thompson)
 - Advisory Present: Seth Slabaugh – City Arborist (Absent: Chip Hill)
- President Janice Daniel called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August minutes. Bryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Jim. A vote was taken; all voted “aye”.

OLD BUSINESS

- Financial Update
 - No report this month.
- Tree Keeper
 - Dan has about half of the missing trees logged into the program. He also recorded the new trees we planted along IN-205.
- Grant Applications
 - No progress or new grant opportunities
- Funeral Trees
 - The committee did not meet.
- Tree Removal/Trimming List
 - Seth sent the information to Chip needed to tender bids. No update at this time.
 - Janice will follow up.
- Smiles on Main Tree
 - Seth checked on the tree that died. Too much of its root ball is exposed due to the slope.
 - We will replant in the spring.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tree List and Fall Planting

- Jeff will forward the Tree List we approved and Tree Planting Addresses he has surveyed in Hanna Extended and Chesapeake Landing.
- We have 2521 total trees on Tree Keeper, 102 species.
 - **Motion: Brent moved to have us plant 50 trees this fall including linden, white oak and gingko in even thirds, as per availability.**
 - **Seconded by Dan, Carried**
- New Tree Requests
 - We have a few requests for new trees on Main Street
 - North St at Washington has large silver maple in need of pruning. It will have to wait until next year.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Submitted by Jeff Bleijerveld, Secretary