

City of Hood River Tree Committee

Minutes February 19, 2020 12:00PM **Meeting held at Ty Taylor Fire Station/ Leonard Hay Community Room**

Committee present: Dan Ball/Chair, Jacquie Barone/Secretary, Kathy Jubitz, Tim Counihan, Tyler Roth, Rick Peargin, Tina Lassen
Guest: Jim Klaas

1. Call to Order

2. Introductions: None done. Everyone present.

3. Public Comments: None

4. Approval of minutes: January 6, 2020 minutes were approved with the correction to Jim Klaas's spelling of last name. Kathy Jubitz motioned to approve minutes. Tina Lassen second it. All approved.

5. Tree City USA and Tree City Growth Award Update: Hood River was awarded its 8th year as Tree City USA and the 2nd year it has received the Tree City Growth Award. It has been announced to the City Council at a previous city meeting as per Tim. Article on the awards were in the 2/19/20 Hood River News.

Any future publicity needs to be approved by Rachel Fuller and Paige Rouse of Pageworks.

Tina wanted to know who was responsible for handing out awards. Tyler explained all the entities involved including the Arbor Day Foundation who award the Tree City USA and the other is in conjunction with Oregon Community Trees (OCT) and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Tina read the info on the Growth Award and description explaining that it involves the maintenance and care of trees by the city. 67 cities received Tree City USA designation while 13 in Oregon received the Growth Award. Dan handed out the list of the other cities awarded.

As Tree City USA the city must have an Arbor Day event and a proclamation read which is to occur on Feb. 24, 2020 at the city council meeting. As part of the awards the city will be receiving a Tree City USA flag, a maple leaf plaque and stickers saying the number of years as a Tree City USA to post on signs within the city. Discussion on whether Tyler will pick up the items or if Dan should have them sent to the city occurred. Tyler would check as he will be at the meeting for OCT. Discussion where emails are going and figured they could still be going to Ann Frodel as she headed the awards over the last several years.

6. Arbor Day 2020 Planning Update: Hood River was awarded a **Booster Grant** for \$480 which is to be used for the local Wednesday events where free trees and information on maintenance and trees will be handed out over the month of April. Dan and Jacquie wrote the grant which was awarded. There is \$450.00 still left in the Tree Committee fund from previous donations. Dan handed out information on planting and staking and wondered if this information should also be handed out during these events. Brochures from the Oregon Department of Forestry will be handed out. Dates for local Wednesdays will be April 8, 15, 22, and 29. Members the board are asked to pick a day to volunteer for a couple hours during the event. Dan talked to the Earth Club at the Highschool and is hoping to get volunteers from there as well. Tyler suggested we get a parking permit so that we can park near the location of the event so that we have bags of soil and trees close by.

A banner is still needed for events which was part of the Booster Grant in 2018. Tyler said he would look in to this and knows folks at infinite graphics. There was discussion that the banner should be for a table. For the event Jacquie and Kathy have tables and tents if needed. Dan ordered 50 brochures but it was suggested he order more of them.

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Dan talked about a general calendar of earth and arbor day events (aka Earth Month) happening in April that we will be included on created by the Climate Action Group.

There was discussion of where set up would be when weather is not great but we need to figure out which businesses are highlighted and if those location will work. Jacquie asked if trees are for 'everyone'. Everyone said yes. Tin asked that some native trees be added to the free handouts. Jacquie is currently looking for bareroot stock to hand out.

Jacquie did mention that the Amelanchier alnifolia tree form was deleted from the tree list and that this was a good street tree. Tim mentioned that the tree list is dynamic and therefore trees can be added and/or deleted at any time. He mention that he would look in to trees that need to be added.

Items needed for the arbor month events are soil, one gallon pots bareroot tree stock (100 each), brochures, banner, tent, table and chairs.

7. Update on Tree Committee Website: Dan showed the new website updates. He showed how the new tree list search would work. Dee Holzman was doing the work on this. (contracted by the city) Tyler felt that it was over detailed and thought it was to hard to create. Dan thought the spread sheet needs to be more detailed. There was discussion that 'soil' type was not necessary as the general public would not know what their soil is. Tyler was concerned that the city could be working too much on this and not on other important things like the coded changes. We all agreed to keep the trees each simpler similar to the Portland Tree list search. <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/trees/66682> Jacquie said she would work with Dan on the categories for the website breakdown. There was also discussion about solar panels and location of taller trees.

Dan went over other areas of the website including links to additional information like benefits of the trees, street tree lists, staking and planting techniques and protection of trees during construction. We all liked what Dan was working on. Kathy asked if the website should be promoted in the Hood River News.

8. Business for March: Arbor Day event planning to continue. Tyler will do banner. Jacquie doing tree purchasing and go over tree searchable lists with Dan. Tyler will look in to picking up items at OCT.

9. Other business: Tyler mentioned that June 4, 2020 was the Urban Forestry Conference at the World Forestry Building in Portland put on by OCT and he thought that someone from the city should attend and that possibly someone from the Tree Committee. Full day conference with lunch is \$130. Everyone thought Rick and Dan would be good candidates for this conference and that the city should pay for their attendance as a benefit to the city.

Tyler updated us on the Tree ordinances 1923 and that it has not been updated since 2007 which is far behind the currently building and development standards which include new storm water plantings etc. Rick will update additional areas of the ordinance and meet with Tim to gov over them and get them ready to submit to the city. Tyler will send the changes to everyone.

Dan talked about Heritage Trees and asked if we wanted to nominate a tree this year. There is still some work to be done on improved documentation of these trees. Jonathon with the city would place these designated trees on the city GIS map. (an easy drop and pin) Discussion over a Big Leaf Maple which could possibly be over 125 years old on Pine Street and 6th should be nominated as well as a Sequoia on 6th Street.

Next Meetings: March 11, 2020 at Ty Taylor Fire Station/ Leonard Hay Community Room.

Jacquie motions to adjourn, Kathy seconds, all in favor.