

City of Hood River Tree Committee

Minutes Minutes March 11, 2020 12:00PM **Meeting held at Ty Taylor Fire Station/ Leonard Hay Community Room**

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

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comments: None

4. Approval of minutes: Feb 19, 2020 minutes were approved. Kathy Jubitz motioned to approve minutes. Tyler Roth second it. All approved. Kathy will contact Jacquie with some spelling corrections before going public.

5. Arbor Day 2020 Planning Update: Dan reviewed the concept which would include a table in front of Local Wednesday featured businesses handing out free trees and free information on planting, maintaining and pruning trees.

Planting Material update by Jacquie included explaining that finding barefoot trees without a larger minimum was difficult and in her research found a nursery (Landscape Center of Sester Farms) that would sell one gallon, 2 year root stock (3 year plants) for \$13.40 each and suggested we think about giving these out instead of bare root. The money used for soil could be used towards the already rooted and potted trees.

Everyone agreed this might be the easier and a better solution. Tyler suggested that a lot of towns hand out free trees but have discovered that most of those trees don't survive and the only reason we got the grant was the fact that we were closing the loop by asking folks to post to instagram which allowed them to enter a contest for a free consult by Tyler and Jacquie. We decided to choose 50 trees total, 5 varieties would include Amelanchier grandiflora (tree form)(serviceberry) , Tilia cordate 'Greenspire' (Linden) , Quercus rubra (Red Oak) , Syringa reticulata 'Ivory Silk' (Japanese Tree Lilac) and Plamntanus acerfolia 'Morton Circle' (Exclamation London Planetree).

Jacquie also explained that we could order smaller quantities of barefoot trees from the Arbor Day Foundation. We would have to order in quantities of 50ea and choices of trees included Red Bud, Pin Oak, Red Oak, Spruce, Tulip Tree, Dogwood, Crabapple, and Star Magnolia. We agreed to stick to the potted trees and if we run out we run out.

As for budget on trees, we have \$480 of grant money allocated for this specific purpose. 50 trees at 13.40 would total \$670.00. We discussed reducing the amount of trees to give away or use some of the money available in the Tree Committee account. Dan also said he would donate to the cause. Someone suggested we even have a donation jar at the event for future events and projects. We reduced the tree order to 40 trees to reduce the budget and Jacquie said she would order the trees.

Dan went over the dates for the give away including April 8 at Gorge Greenery, April 15 at 2nd Wind, and April 22 at Oregon E Bikes (Big Winds). We need to set up table and have a reserved parking space for the trees. If we did not get rid of the trees on these three dates then we would do so on April 29th at 64oz Pub.

Dan discussed the marketing which included (1) being on the Climate Action Network Groups calendar of events which will be posted through the gorge and on their website. (2) Being publicized as part of the Local Wednesday marketing materials, (3) with Local Wednesday event in the Chamber Commerce

City of Hood River Tree Committee

marketing (4) In an announcement put out by Thrive Hood River (as per Sylvan Shane), (5) Hood River News (6) and Tyler suggested maybe Streets Alive.

Jacquie also explained that she received information from Steve Gate's wife, Ginny that the family thought that the City Arbor Day planting in appreciation of Steve should happen in Wilson Park and that he loved Dogwoods. They said Steve loved the park and walked there often with their kids, grand kid, and dogs and it's a real neighborhood park where they run into neighbors or make new friends. This event was proposed in November before the grant project was created and funded.

Tyler said that he is still organizing through OTC the planting of the Gingko trees here in Hood River. No dates have been confirmed yet.

6. Update on Tree Committee Website: Tyler has played phone tag with Dee in regards to the website. Jacquie brought up to Dan that the two of them are to get together to discuss the breakdowns for the website in regards of searchable perimeters.

7. Update on Heritage Tree Program: Nothing new to report but id there are trees one wants to nominate than to do so. Decided we need to get through April events first and then move forward on nominations.

7. Business for April: Arbor Day events to occur. Dates as above.

8. Other business: Tyler talked about the June 4, 2020 Urban Forestry Conference at the World Forestry Building in Portland put on by OCT. Rick said he would sign up and the fee would be \$100.00 for him to attend. Rick will look in to seeing if one other tree member could attend paid by the city. The committee agreed Dan would be a candidate at the February meeting.

Tyler felt that the Tree Committee needs to find a way to create a funding source to have the flexibility to create events etc. to promote trees.

We had some discussion about Ordinance changes and how to move forward with these. We all said we would look over them. Rick said he is stretched thin right now and doesn't have time for the code work but would pass on what he sees as issues that he sees on the ground everyday. We will continue work on this in the fall.

There was discussion about the difficulty of finding 2" caliper trees for developers, builders, homeowners and others to plant in right of way required locations. In Jacquie's research with nurseries, wholesale and retail, they just are not available and easily accessible. We need to consider looking at this size requirement in there ordinance so that trees can be accessed.

We discussed meetings in the summer. Rick would not be at the May meeting and Dan would be absent in June. There could possibly be no meetings during the summer months as done in the past.

Next Meetings: April 15, 2020 at Ty Taylor Fire Station/ Leonard Hay Community Room.

Motion to adjourn. (Seconded and Passed)

Addendum (April 6, 2020): Due to Changes in City Operations due to COVID-19, the April 15 Tree Committee meeting has been cancelled and most planned committee operations have been put on hold until further notice.

Dan Ball, chair