

Colville City Tree Board June 28, 2018

**Next meeting, Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm, Colville City Hall**

Present-- Tree Board Members: Dean Fischer, Larry Cressey, Kathy Ahlenslager (note-taker); City Councilwoman Anne Lawson.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion or Status</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
April Meeting Notes	Moved by Cressey and seconded by Ahlenslager, unanimously approved.	
Certified Arborist List	Cressey found three: All Seasons Tree Care, Northwest Tree Service, Sean Dugan ISA. Lawson might have one more.	Lawson
Notable Trees	Plaque status: Fischer gave Colville High School teacher Todd Strobel the City contract for 12 plaques. Funding is only available until Dec. 31th. Lawson will forward her file of letters and photos, and Ahlenslager will see that the City Clerk's office has a complete set.	Lawson and Ahlenslager
Tree Care Brochure	Lawson will check to see if it can be reformatted for inclusion in a spring 2019 utility bill. Tree Board review and send comments to Ahlenslager. Discuss at August meeting.	All Tree Board members
Yep Kanum Park	7 of 23 tree/shrub identification labels installed last fall in Yep Kanum Park have been vandalized, as of May 8, 2018. Suggest moving the remaining ones higher.	
Truck Bypass	Cressey will talk with Jeff Cochran to follow-up on discussion from the April meeting.	Cressey
DNR Small Community Forestry Assistance Grant	Jim Flott was the only responsive bidder to update the street tree map of Wynn, Main, Oak Streets, and the two round-abouts; and complete an assessment and maintenance plan for street trees. There's \$8,000-9,000 in the 2018 budget for tree pruning. Steve Schmid of Northwest Tree Service is willing to conduct a free training on tree pruning for City employees. Pruning may be conducted by City employees or contract.	
Street Tree Survey	Lawson shared a summary of responses from the survey (attached below). Ahlenslager will give paper copies to the owners that participated in the survey.	Ahlenslager
Jim Flott	Ask Flott about aphid control, as the sticky honeydew they secrete drips onto parked cars below. This is a concern of some business owners. Bonide has been suggested, but it kills all insects. Also talk with Flott about additional trees on Main Street, south of Birch Street. Fischer suggested Arbor Day Foundation has a program for additional trees, Community Canopy Project.	
For the Future		
Education	In the future Tree Board members might consider writing newspaper articles about the benefits of trees.	

## Colville's Downtown Street Trees

### Main Street Summary

Do Nothing – 6

Prune – 24

Remove & Replace – 7

Although almost everyone prefaced their remarks by saying, "I love/like trees on Main Street," the following businesses would prefer smaller trees – EZ Knit, Hometown Computers, House of Music, Dodson's and Garringer's Insurance. Carter Motors wants trees that do not drop sticky stuff on cars in his lot, possibly spruce? (his suggestion)

Main concerns are the following:

- 1) Trees have overtopped the buildings and now drop leaves onto flat roofs, which blocks drains and can cause roofs to leak
- 2) Trees cover signage
- 3) Trees are messy; leaves, seeds, pollen and flowers are tracked into businesses
- 4) Trees cause sidewalks to bulge and may cause problems for pedestrian safety
- 5) Trees drip sticky stuff – aphids? sap? something else?

Not all businesses find these compelling reasons to remove trees. Most businesses are willing to sweep sidewalks and unclog roof drains in return for shade and the visually appealing aspect of street trees. The majority of Main Street businesses recommend nothing or pruning for the street trees. Businesses tell us they want "Whatever it takes for the trees to stay healthy" and "Whatever an arborist recommends."

Bank manager Amy would like a replacement for the tree that was removed in front of Key Bank.

George Bybee would like replacements for the two dead trees in front of the Chase Bank Building.

Mike LeCaire wishes he had a tree in front of Sun Rental since the south end of Main St. is 'a desert.'

Random comments from business owners:

Trees make downtown beautiful and homey.

The point of a tree is to be big and beautiful.

I like having trees around. Trees are friendly.

Trees make things look good.

Don't butcher the trees when you prune. Do prudent pruning by a professional.

I would rather have a little sap than a sterile environment.

Just prune the trees so they don't rub on the buildings or poke pedestrians in the eye.

The city planted the 'wrong' trees. It's important to get trees that fit.

We didn't use to have trees on Main Street. I'm glad we have them; it's lovely going down the street, warm and homey.

I'm all for trees on Main Street, but you've got to take care of them. They need maintenance.

Can the city help clear the leaves from the sidewalks?

What happened to the electrical boxes near each tree so we could light them at Christmas?

### Wynn Street Summary

Do Nothing – 0

Prune – 8

Remove & Replace – 0

Jamie at Maverick's would love to have a tree in the empty space in front of 168 N. Wynn.

Random comments from business owners:

We clean our leaves, but lots of people don't.

People want to walk, so the sidewalks need to be friendly. Trees help.

Trees don't define if someone's going to come into your business.

Wish our trees were smaller.

### **Oak Street Summary**

Do Nothing – 0

Prune – 4

Remove & Replace – 2

Colville Fitness would like to see his elm volunteer tree/shrub removed and replaced with a pretty tree with lots of color and flowers. (He still waters the elm that he doesn't like.)

Barb Weeman says remove trees because they're messy, wrong species, and bother her allergies.

Random comments from business owners:

If you look at Main Street, what's the thing you notice? The beautiful trees.

I would love more shade.

Bulb-outs filled with rock are a danger for pedestrians, especially the elderly.

#### Total Count:

Do Nothing – 6 (~12%)

Prune - 36 (~70%)

Remove & Replace - 9 (~18%)

Survey completed by Kathy Ahlenslager and Annie Lawson, submitted May 14, 2018.