TONY BRAND	SHARON BUCKLE	LACY JOHNSON	BILL MANKER	OLIVIA ROWE	BRIAN WINN
CHAIRPERSON		ALTERNATE			VICE-CHAIR

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

TOM COURTNEY	**CITY MANAGER**
GREGORY LANTING	**COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**
DENNIS J. BOWYER	**PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR**
KEVIN SKELTON	**PARKS COORDINATOR**

TWIN FALLS CITY TREE COMMISSION MEETING

June 26, 2009 * * * * * 11:00am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present:	**Tony Brand, Olivia Rowe and Brian Winn**
Members Absent:	**Sharon Buckle, Lacy Johnson and Bill Manker**
Non-Voting Member Present:	**Dave Kiesig**
Council Present:	**Gregory Lanting**
Staff Present:	**Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**

MINUTES

Chairperson Tony Brand called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

Item #1 Approve minutes of the May 29th, 2009 meeting

Olivia Rowe made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 29th, 2009 meeting. Brian seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Item #2 Tree of the Month – Brian Winn

Brian Winn gave the tree of the month presentation on the Bur Oak. This is a large tree; 70-80 feet in height, slow growing with leaves that are a glossy green. The main characteristic is that it has rough, deeply furrowed bark. Its native habitat is Nova Scotia to Pennsylvania, west to Manitoba and Texas. Brian asked Dave if there were any Bur Oak's on the CSI campus. Dave mentioned there were a few. Brian has found the Bur Oak to be tolerant of pests. The Bur Oak is difficult to transplant but succeeds well in dry, clay soils and is tolerant of city conditions.

Tony asked Brian where this tree would be good to plant in our area. Brian said it would be a tree that you would want to plant in parks and wide open spaces due to how large the tree is. Dennis mentioned

that there are a couple Bur Oak's at Shoshone Falls. There was also one planted at City Park but it didn't last and had to be removed.

Item #3 Hazard Tree Program - Commission

The Commission had discussed developing a Hazard Tree Program for quite a while. The City had received a grant from the Department of Lands to do a tree inventory in the rights-of-way of the original town site. The City hired a horticulture student from CSI for the inventory. During this inventory, the student listed many trees in the rights-of-way that he considered hazardous. The Commission mailed letters to the insurance companies asking them to donate funds to be used to remove these hazard trees. The Commission has not heard anything from the insurance companies. The idea for contacting the insurance agencies was for them to understand that it would be cheaper to remove the trees than to have a claim for damage to cars, homes or people.

Dennis has contacted Philip but hasn't received a call back. He thinks we can work on the GIS system that the inventory was done on and get the addresses of the homeowners from that. Once we get the addresses, a letter can be sent to the homeowner's letting them know that we have done a survey and they have a hazardous tree on their property and what can be done about getting it removed.

Dennis had suggested forming a sub-committee but now that we can research the information on our own, it probably won't be needed. Tony asked if all of the trees that are considered being hazardous are to the extent of having to be removed. Dave stated that they are categorized by ones that need to be removed and ones that need work.

Tony mentioned he drove by the tree on Eastland that Olivia commented on at the last meeting. The tree has dead branches that are hanging over the road and it is in need of a lot of work. He doesn't know if it is on public property or not. Dennis believes it is on half of the City's property and half of the homeowners. Dennis will contact the homeowner and ask if they are willing to split the cost to have it removed. He asked Kevin to contact Tim Abbott to go by the property and get an estimate of how much it will cost to remove the tree.

Item #4 Training for Tree Commission - Commission

At last month's meeting, the Commission discussed the idea of having Gerry Bates conduct a training class or seminar for the Tree Commission. It was suggested to invite the County's Tree Committee to have a joint training. Dennis was going to contact Gerry for possible dates but hasn't a chance to do that yet. He asked the Commission if they want to have the training on a scheduled Commission meeting and how long they would like the training to last. Tony thought 2-3 hours would be plenty of time for the training. Brian will let the County know that we are working on times and dates and will see what their schedule is like.

Dennis also asked the Commission if there were any specific training they want. He will talk to Gerry and see what his suggestions are and if he's done any training like this for other communities. Dave mentioned that Gerry has done other trainings before and he also suggested having him discuss hazard trees and inviting insurance agencies to attend so they can understand how to prevent having claims filed for these trees.

Brian mentioned that July is usually a slow month and having the training on the regular scheduled meeting date would be a good idea. Dennis suggested having the training for a couple hours in the morning and possibly having lunch afterwards. Tony would like to have the Commission make some calls to some insurance agencies to encourage them to attend the training.

Item #5 Old & New Business - Commission

Dennis commented that at the last meeting, the Commission decided to move the Arbor Day celebration back to Friday. He would like to have the Boys and Girls Club, Key Club and Cactus Pete's participate again next year.

Tony mentioned that a few meetings ago, there was discussion about the trees on Washington Street being removed due to the City widening the street. He asked if there have been any updates on that project. Dennis said there will be a median strip down Washington Street and trees are planned to be planted inside the median. There will have to be trees removed in order to widen the street and Tony asked if there is a plan in place to replace those trees that will be removed. Dennis will see if he can find a copy of the plan to see what trees they are planning on removing. He will also check to see if there is a procedure to replace the trees. Greg reported that the project should be starting this fall.

Brian thanked Dave for the presentation he gave at the Tree Pruning Workshop.

Item #6 What Have You Seen? – Commission

Dave asked the Commission if they were involved in the trees being planted at Wal-Mart. He commented that there are some major issues with the way the trees have been planted. They planted approximately 30 Sycamores under the power lines. This will be a big issue in 5-6 years when the trees are hitting the power lines. Greg suggested talking to Jackie Fields to see if there was a plan in place for the future. He wondered if they will eventually go to underground power lines at that location when they widen Washington Street.

Tony reported a pine tree obstructing the view and sidewalk of Madrona and Falls at the southwest corner. Dennis will talk to the City's Code Compliance Officer about it.

Brian noticed Tim Abbott removing some elm trees in City Park.

Olivia mentioned that they are short on funding this year for the firework display. She asked if anyone knows of anyone that she can contact about possible funding, she would appreciate it. She would hate for the display to go away and the community would be affected as well. Brian suggested contacting the Modern Woodman of America for next year's display. Youth groups can help raise funds for next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be a Special Training meeting held **Friday, July 17th, 2009** at **10:00 am** in the **City of Twin Falls Council Chambers, located at 305 3rd Ave E.**

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation