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 SPECIAL MEETING

August 28, 2009 * * * * * 11:00am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: **Tony Brand, Sharon Buckle, Lacy Johnson and Olivia Rowe**

Members Absent: **Bill Manker and Brian Winn**

Non-Voting Member Present: **Dave Kiesig**

Council Absent: **Gregory Lanting**

Staff Present: **Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**

MINUTES

Chairperson Tony Brand called the meeting to order at 11:07am.

Item #1 Approve minutes of the July 17th, 2009 meeting

Sharon Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2009 meeting. Olivia Rowe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 Tree of the Month – Tony Brand

Tony presented the Tree of the Month on the Black Walnut. He picked this tree because he found it growing in his back yard. The Black Walnut is not in the Tree Selection Guide and it is most commonly found in the Eastern United States. This tree is very toxic to other plants within 50-60 feet. Plants such as tomato, potato, blackberry, blueberry, azalea, mountain laurel, rhododendron, red pine and apple may be injured or killed within one to two months of growth within the root zone of these trees. The Black Walnut is a very productive tree with multiple uses. The nut can be used for food but the shell is extremely hard and difficult to break open. It has been used to make furniture, most commonly in gunstocks.

Dave commented that this tree is a slow growing tree with hard wood. They are very hard to remove. He has seen chainsaws burn up trying to remove this kind of tree. They are a great tree for wind breaks and drought tolerant.

Sharon will have the Tree of the Month for September and Olivia will do October's Tree of the Month.

Item #3 Hazard Tree Program – Commission

Dennis went over the City Code on Public Nuisances that were included in the staff report. When Philip did the project on the hazard trees, he was not an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist. City Code states that an ISA certified arborist is to determine if a tree is hazardous or not. Dennis asked Dave if he verified that each tree was a hazardous tree. Dave informed him that he went out and looked at about 90% of the trees that Philip listed as a hazardous tree. Dennis has proposed that Kevin go out each week and look at 5-10 trees on the list. He wants to follow City Code and have it confirmed from an ISA certified arborist that each tree is hazardous before sending out letters to homeowners. Dennis suggested that Kevin meet with Dave to have him verify if he has already looked at these different trees so Kevin doesn't waste his time doing them a second time.

Dave informed the Commission that the trees Philip listed as hazardous were ones that should be removed. It was suggested that we prioritize the trees that need immediate removal. Philip added notes to each tree stating why it was considered hazardous but staff needs to work with the IS Department to be able to pull up the notes that was written.

Dennis hopes that Kevin can have the trees looked at in approximately 2 months. Dave stated that each tree would take about 1-2 hours to fully confirm that the tree is hazardous. This would include taking samples, pictures, etc. He feels that we should cover ourselves in all legal aspects if we are going to be requesting homeowners to remove these trees. He suggested explaining what is wrong with the homeowner's tree and having a list of ISA certified arborists included when sending out the letters.

Kevin suggested submitting a PSA or putting a notice on water bills so homeowners will be aware that we are checking for hazardous trees.

Dennis will give the Commission monthly updates and once trees are confirmed hazardous, letters can be sent out each month.

Item #4 Washington St. Widening Project – Staff & Commission

It was discussed at the last meeting about the Washington St. project. The concern was how many trees will be removed and if replacement trees are being planned. Dennis informed the Commission that 79 trees are planned to be removed from Filer Avenue to Pole Line Road. The City will pay owners of the trees that have to be removed and it is up to the homeowner to replace the trees or not. The average price per tree that is paid to homeowners is $500. Dennis hasn't found anything that stipulates that the trees have to be replaced. He will check with the City Engineer to see if there are any plans to replace the trees but at this point, it looks like there isn't.

Dave mentioned that he has been appraising some of these trees and there is a Sycamore Maple that he appraised a couple years ago that has to be removed in this project. It appraised at $30,000.00 two years ago. He is willing to show Commission members the tree if they are interested.

Item #5 Other Items from the Commission

Sharon had e-mailed Dennis requesting him to look at a couple trees behind Albertson's. Dennis went and looked at the trees and they are on private property. According to City Code, we may be able to force the owner to do something if it is declared a hazardous tree. If it is not a hazardous tree, there isn't anything we can do. Dennis asked Kevin to go take a look at them.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08pm

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Friday, September 25th, 2009** at **11:00 am** in the **City of Twin Falls Council Chambers, located at 305 3rd Ave E.**

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation