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

November 20, 2009 * * * * * 11:00am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present:	**Tony Brand, Sharon Buckle and Brian Winn**
Members Absent:	**Lacy Johnson, Olivia Rowe, and Bill Manker**
Non-Voting Member Present:	**Dave Kiesig**
Council Present:	**Gregory Lanting**
Staff Present:	**Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**
Guests:	**Dylan Bronson, Tiffany Pemberton, Jacob Brown, Ryce Lindley; CSI Horticulture Students, Urban Forestry.**

MINUTES

Chairperson Tony Brand called the meeting to order at 11:03am. Introductions were made to the CSI Horticulture students.

Item #1 Approve minutes of the August 28th, 2009 meeting

Sharon Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28th, 2009 meeting. Brian Winn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 Tree of the Month – Sharon Buckle

Sharon presented the Tree of the Month on the Sycamore Maple. The Sycamore Maple is a large tree 40'-60' tall or more in height. It has upright spreading branches and is a good shade tree. The Sycamore Maple is easily transplanted, rarely needs pruning, is tolerant of our alkaline soil and is tolerant of wind. It is, however, susceptible to aphids and stem borers. The Sycamore Maple develops long winged seeds, which mature in autumn. Butterflies use the seeds as a food source. It has a spring bloom that is described as a green and the blooms are very showy. The bark is scaly exposing gray to pinkish inner bark. This tree would be a good choice for homeowners that have a lot of space due to the large size of the tree.

Sharon asked Dave if there were any negatives about the Sycamore Maple and he said no.

Item #3 VIP Program - Commission

Dave Kiesig had passed on an idea about a VIP (Volunteers in Pruning) program. Cities in northern Idaho are participating in this tree care education program. Dennis presented some information on the program. This program would allow community members to prune trees. Right now, the City has Cascade Landscape Group and Trees and Stumps of Magic Valley pruning the trees in the various parks. City Code requires trees in public parks and public right of way to be pruned by an ISA Certified Arborist or supervised by an ISA certified arborist. In order for community members to learn the proper techniques of tree pruning, an ISA Certified Arborist will have to be present.

Dennis suggested offering this program with the tree pruning workshop and providing more detail about pruning trees for homeowners. This will teach homeowners some minor pruning techniques for pruning young trees at their homes.

Brian also feels we should start with incorporating the program in with the workshop. He would like to get more information from the cities in Northern Idaho that are participating in the program. Sharon would like to know what their evaluation of the program was and what their successes and challenges were. It would be nice to know how the program has progressed over the past year. She asked if the companies we work with now would be ok with working with volunteers.

Dave informed the Commission that the idea behind this program is more than a workshop. It is training for citizens that give them opportunities through the year for them to learn. The objective is to provide other meaningful opportunities to practice what they have learned.

Dennis will talk with the Community Forester in Northern Idaho to get information on the pros and cons of the program. This item will be on the agenda for next month, along with more information on the program.

Item #4 Tree City USA Recertification and Growth Award – Staff & Commission

It is time for the annual recertification of the Tree City USA and the growth award. These are typically due December 1st. This will be the City's 11th year as a Tree City USA.

Dennis went over the four standards that we need to follow in order to be a Tree City USA. We must have a Tree Commission, a community Tree Ordinance, a budget for tree care that equals $2 per capita and we must celebrate Arbor Day.

In order to qualify for the growth award, we need 10 points total in 4 categories. Dennis would like the Commission to review the different categories to see where we would qualify for the points. We would need to significantly improve in an area where we have already received points or participate in a new area. The tree pruning workshop will apply for this year. Brian stated we should receive four points for participating with the County in the Arbor Day Parade. Tony feels that participating in the Master Gardener's Symposium would qualify under A2. Sharon asked if any parks would qualify as a pocket park to qualify under D9. Dave explained that a pocket park is a park where parking is around an area that is landscaped. The Grain Elevator Park would qualify under this category because it fits the donation criteria due to the CSI tree farm donating 2 trees to plant.

Dennis will ask Gerry Bates to review these areas to see if we will qualify. Tony would like to have the Growth Award on the January agenda to review what events will qualify for next year.

Item #5 Other Items from the Commission

Dennis informed the Commission that the owner of the Cookie Basket couldn't make it to the meeting today or next month. She has put in a request to remove a tree in front of her business because it blocks her sign. Dennis asked the Commission to go by and look at the tree before the January meeting.

Tony thanked the CSI Horticulture students for attending the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57am.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Friday, December 18th, 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