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

July 17, 2009 * * * * * 10:00am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present:	**Sharon Buckle, Lacy Johnson and Brian Winn**
Members Absent:	**Tony Brand, Bill Manker and Olivia Rowe**
Non-Voting Member Present:	**Dave Kiesig**
Council Absent:	**Gregory Lanting**
Staff Present:	**Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**
Guests:	**Craig Westling with Idaho Power and Jim Teffer with the County's Tree Committee**

MINUTES

Vice Chairperson Brian Winn called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

Item #1 Approve minutes of the June 26th, 2009 meeting

Sharon Buckle made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26th, 2009 meeting. Lacy Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 Training for the Commission

Brian Winn introduced Gerry Bates, the Community Forestry Assistant with the Idaho Community Forestry Program.

Gerry first discussed the Community Transportation Enhancement Grants that are available this year. This grant program is for the purpose of enhancing transportation corridors in selected communities statewide through tree and shrub planting. The deadline is September 4th.

Also there is a Hazard Tree and Appraisals Workshops on August 3rd and 4th. Call him if anyone is interested.

Gerry discussed tree inventories and why you need them. The inventories can provide the following: a baseline, identifies & quantifies the resource, education, monitoring, budgets, risk management, customer service, management plans, and systematic & proactive maintenance. Different types of inventories: Complete, sample, partial, windshield survey, and canopy cover analysis. What do you want to know from the survey?: species, condition, height, spread, diseases, dimensions, etc. Financial needs for the inventory: training staff and volunteers, data collection tools, date entry, and staff time. Finding the funds for a survey: capital improvements, cost share with other departments and/or communities; and grants.

Inventories should be updated every 5-8 years; it should be part of the Community Forestry Master Plan

For every $1 invested in trees, you get $2.80 in return. Some threats to city trees are: poor management practices, inadequate space for the tree, development, and pests and/or diseases.

Gerry then discussed what the Tree Commission could do be become more pro-active for the community forest. His four items were: 1) Establish long-term goals for the community, 2) fund programs for the maintenance and care of trees; 3) support volunteer organizations in their efforts to promote trees and their care; 4) champion the community trees.

Gerry had seven handouts for the Commission, they were: 1) Tree Talk – a listing of tree related web sites; 2) Plant Trees – bring Life to you Community; 3) Community Forestry guideline; 4) the essential nature of urban forests – an article promoting trees from the Chicago Tribune; 5) Update your Community Forestry Work Plan document; 6) Contracting Tree Maintenance Services; and 7) A management needs survey.

Old Business – The Wal-Mart trees were brought up again, concerning the planting of large species of trees under power lines and how they were planted.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10pm

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Friday, August 28th, 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