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

May 29, 2009 * * * * * 11:00am * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present: **Tony Brand, Sharon Buckle, Olivia Rowe and Brian Winn**

Members Absent: **Lacy Johnson and Bill Manker**

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

Council Absent: **Gregory Lanting**

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

MINUTES

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

Brian Winn made a motion to approve the April 24th, 2009 meeting minutes. Sharon Buckle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #1 Arbor Day Recap - Commission

Brian updated the Commission on the Arbor Day Parade and celebration. The County's Arbor Day Parade had approximately 25 entries. It was a great success for its first year. The Arbor Day celebration had about 20 volunteers show up for the planting of the trees. Dave Lockwood explained how a tree spade operates while he spaded a Colorado Spruce tree. Everything went well. Olivia mentioned how impressed she was with the number of Cactus Pete's volunteers. There were six employees from Cactus Pete's that attended to help plant two Honeylocust trees. Gerry Bates with the Department of Lands presented the City with its Tree City Flag and stickers for its 11th year of being designated as a Tree City USA community.

The Commission discussed how they can improve next year with the Arbor Day Parade and celebration. Brian feels that having the celebration on a Saturday lost the volunteer staff of the Boys and Girls Club and Key Club. Tony mentioned that we have had more success having the celebration on the weekday. Olivia feels having the kids participate is a great way for them to learn what Arbor

Day is really about. The Commission agreed that next year the celebration should be held on Friday and we should participate in the parade on Saturday.

Item #2 Growth Awards - Commission

At last month's meeting, staff handed out the pamphlet on the Tree City USA program on Growth Awards and how communities could obtain them. Brian mentioned that the Commission should be getting 4 points for participating in the Arbor Day Parade. Brian represented the Commission on the planning of the parade.

Item #3 Review of Tree Ordinance & Tree Selection Guidebook - Commission

Tony felt it would be a good idea for the Commission to review the current ordinance so everyone can understand the ordinance. Tony went over the ordinance and answered any questions the Commission had.

Sharon mentioned that at the last meeting, Dave Kiesig had stated that other cities regulate pruning of trees on private property as well as the public rights of ways. She asked what the procedure would be to get that changed in the City's ordinance. Brian stated that the biggest hurdle is not having a Community Forester on board. The Commission has talked about hiring someone and splitting the cost between the city and county. The Commission would have to investigate what a Community Forester does and a recommendation to Council would have to be made.

Sharon also asked if there has been any progress with the Hazard Tree Program the Commission was trying to get started. Letters have been sent to insurance companies but there has been no response. Dennis was going to hire Philip to get the addresses of where the hazard trees are. Sharon asked if we could send letters to the homeowner's so they can contact their insurance company. The Hazard Tree Program will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Brian went over the Tree Selection Guidebook. The Tree Selection Guidebook is in its 3rd edition. Every 3-5 years, the Commission has reviewed it and sees if it needs another update. It has been 3 years since the last update. Brian explained that it is the Commission's duty to suggest to homeowner's what trees are good for planting in this area. The guidebook explains all that. He asked the Commission to look through the book and familiarize themselves with it. Tony commented that Idaho Falls has a book that has real photos of the trees instead of sketches. He suggested having real photos in our book.

Brian suggested adding the Tree of the Month to the agenda each month. In the past, it was something that was done at each meeting. Each member of the Commission takes turns presenting on a tree of their interest. The Tree of the Month will be added to the agenda for next month's meeting and Brian will present a tree of the month.

Item #4 Old & New Business - Commission

Dennis and Tony had a discussion of having Gerry Bates come in to do a training for an afternoon for the Commission. It was suggested to have the County Tree Board involved as well.

Brian asked if thank you cards were sent out for Craig Westling and Dave Kiesig for their presentation at the Tree Pruning Workshop. Tony or Brian will pick up cards and have them at the next meeting so the Commission can sign them.

Item #5 What Have You Seen? – Commission

Olivia noticed a couple trees on Juniper Street that have been topped. She didn't know if they were on private or public property. She also noticed a tree on Eastland, north of Kelly's Nursery on the west side of the street that is mostly dead and has branches hanging over the street. Tony will drive by the location and take a look.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Friday, June 26th, 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