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

April 24, 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 Present:	**Dave Kiesig**
Council Present:	**Gregory Lanting**
Staff Present:	**Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**
Guest:	**Jim Teffer, Twin Falls County Tree Committee**

MINUTES

Chairperson Tony Brand called the meeting to order at 11:02 am.

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

Dennis introduced the new members to the Commission. Olivia Rowe has been involved with the community for many years and Sharon Buckle owns her own landscape design company with an expertise in Biology. Both members should be a good asset to the Commission.

Item #1 Public Workshop Program Recap – Brian & Tony

Brian updated the Commission on the Public Workshop that was held on Saturday, March 14th. There were approximately 40 people that attended the workshop. There were a few little problems with the projector but Dave Kiesig did a great job "winging it". Tim Abbott of Trees and Stumps of Magic Valley was there to do a demonstration at City Park of the proper pruning methods. He did a 35-40 minute presentation at City Park and answered questions while doing the demonstration. Brian would like to see pruning done on smaller trees that the public would have at their homes next year.

Dennis mentioned that after the City Park demonstration, Dave Kiesig was still at the City Council Chambers answering questions from the participants. Brian asked to send thank you notes to both Dave Kiesig and Craig Westling.

Item #2 Arbor Day – Commission & Staff

Dennis went over the plans for this year's Arbor Day Celebration. Greg Lanting will be there to read the proclamation. Four trees will be planted at the Oregon Trail Youth Complex on Saturday, April 25th at 2:00pm. Parks staff has softened the holes that will be dug so digging will be a lot easier this year. Dave Lockwood will have a tree spade there as well. Jim Teffer asked the Commission if they would need water for the trees but Dennis stated that there will be a water truck there.

In the past, the Boys and Girls Club has helped with the celebration but they might not be able to attend this year due to a golf fundraiser for their club being played on the same day. Cactus Pete's donated $100 for the celebration and will have 8 volunteers attend. Gerry Bates will represent the Tree City USA for the City.

Jim Teffer updated the Commission on the first annual Arbor Day Parade that will be held on Saturday, April 25th at noon. Jim was on 3 different radio stations this morning advertising the parade and advertising has been done in the Times News as well so he feels that the information has gotten out to the public. So far, there are 20 float participants and he expects more sign-ups at the parade tomorrow. The parade will begin at noon at Krengels and will end at the Magic Valley High School.

Tony asked if other communities in the area will be participating. Jim informed the Commission that all of the communities and nurseries in the area have been invited. He knows that Buhl and Filer are supposed to be there but hasn't heard from Hansen or Kimberly. The banner does have all the cities that are Tree City USA listed on it. Sharon asked if the Tree Commission or the Parks and Recreation Department will be having a float in the parade. Dennis stated that we are not.

Tony asked if the County needs any additional help for the parade. Jim feels that everything is under control and it should run smoothly. Jim mentioned that candy will not be able to be thrown but handed out as well as flyers and literature. A local radio station will be at the parade presenting.

On behalf of the Tree Commission, Brian thanked Jim and the Twin Falls County Tree Committee for the time and effort put into the parade. The sub-committee will meet a couple weeks after the parade to discuss what can be done different in the future and how well it went.

Tony asked Dennis if he will be getting the points together for the growth award. Dennis went over the growth award process and what is involved in being a Tree City USA member to the new Commission members.

Item #3 Old & New Business - Commission

Dennis explained to the Commission that because the Tree Enhancement program has been cut due to the budget cuts, Dave Wright mentioned to him about having a tree competition. Dennis had included the article that the City of Shelley implemented in his staff report. The City of Shelley initiated the contest to spotlight homes where the use of trees in the landscape illustrate the beauty and practical benefits that trees can provide. This would qualify the Tree Commission for the growth award. Tony suggested having the Commission review the growth awards and have this on the agenda for next month's meeting. Sharon asked how we would advertise for the competition and what the cost would be. Dennis stated that we do PSA's to the media, advertise on the website and water bills. Julie Pence, the City's Public Information Coordinator, also sends information from the city out to the media once a week.

Tony informed the new Commission members that the Tree Commission does not have a budget. The Commission recommends to City Council their decision for changes in policies and programs but has no authority to change anything. Dennis explained that he does budget money for Arbor Day, Tree Enhancement Program, etc. each year in the budget process. If the Commission wants to do anything that would exceed what the City budgets for the programs, Dennis would need to prepare for that in the budget.

Brian asked Dennis if he has heard from the County about donating $100 towards the cost of the banner they purchased for the Arbor Day parade. Dennis hasn't heard from them but had planned on donating for the banner.

Item #4 What Have You Seen? - Commission

Dennis went over the policy of pruning trees in the rights of ways in the City to the new Commission members.

Brian was informed by Craig Westling of a couple trees at a residence that needs removed and Idaho Power is willing to remove them for the homeowner. The homeowner came into the office and filled out a permit. Dennis asked Brian if he would recommend removing the trees. Brian agreed that they needed to be removed so Dennis will sign off on the permit.

Greg noticed that there aren't a lot of trees planted in the right of ways on Fillmore Street. They are planted more on private property.

Dave Kiesig suggested partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to do a landscape or tree care award for the public. This would recognize those homeowners that are taking proper care of their trees. It would also qualify for the growth award.

Dave mentioned that the City of Boise and Idaho Falls require certified arborists to prune trees inside city limits even on private property. He explained that Twin Falls is the largest metropolitan area in the state that does not have a Community Forester. Greg suggested having the City Attorney look at the legal description of those communities that require certified arborists and possibly implement it in Twin Falls.

Brian personally thanked Dave Kiesig for his presentation at the Tree Pruning workshop.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Friday, May 29th, 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