TONY BRAND	MARY INMAN	LACY JOHNSON	MARK KOFFER	BILL MANKER	BRIAN WINN
VICE-CHAIR		ALTERNATE	CHAIRPERSON		

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

January 27, 2009 * * * * * 12:00pm * * * * * City of Twin Falls Council Chambers

Members Present:	**Mark Koffer, Mary Inman, Tony Brand, Brian Winn and Bill Manker**
Members Absent:	**Lacy Johnson**
Non-Voting Member Absent:	**Dave Kiesig**
Council Absent:	**Gregory Lanting**
Staff Present:	**Dennis Bowyer and Kevin Skelton**
Guests:	**Jim Teffer, Chairperson for the County of Twin Falls' Tree Board**

MINUTES

Chairperson Mark Koffer called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Brian Winn made a motion to approve the November 21st, 2008 minutes. Bill Manker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Introductions were made to Jim Teffer, Chairperson for the County of Twin Falls' Tree Board and Kevin Skelton, Parks Coordinator for Parks and Recreation.

Dennis explained to the Commission that all Commission meetings will be held in the Council Chambers now. This will allow the public to be more involved, allow easier access, and eventually to have the meetings taped to be shown at a later date on the City's webpage of Channel 17.

Item #1 Elections of Officers - Commission

At the beginning of each year, the Commission elects a chairperson and vice-chairperson. Mark Koffer has been the chairperson for the past four years while Tony Brand has been the vice-chairperson for the past three years.

Bill Manker made a motion to elect Tony Brand as chairperson and Brian Winn as vice-chairperson. Mary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item #2 Membership – Commission & Staff

Mark Koffer's last month on the Tree Commission is next month. Brian Winn's and Mary Inman's first term ends next month and they can both be renewed for another three year term. Mary will not be renewing her term. Brian would like to renew for another three year term.

Mary Inman made a motion to renew Brian Winn's term. Bill Manker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis stated that if anyone knows of someone that will be interested on serving on the Tree Commission to contact the Parks and Recreation Department. We will start advertising the position in the Times News and the City's website.

Item #3 County's Tree Committee – Jim Teffer

Jim Teffer with the County of Twin Falls' Tree Board had presented to the Commission in November about forming a partnership with the County and City Tree Commission for an Arbor Day celebration. Jim told the Commission that he has talked with his board and to different businesses in the area about having an Arbor Day Celebration and sponsoring ideas. Jayker's, John Deere and Renter Center are a few businesses that are interested in contributing towards the celebration. Bill Manker asked what the sponsors' involvement would be in the celebration. Jim stated that if we had a parade, he would ask the sponsors to pay a $25 entrance fee.

Jim had attended the Horticulture show in Boise this past week and spoke to Gerry Bates about receiving points for the growth award for this celebration. Gerry told him that it would qualify and they could earn 3-4 points for it. Jim would like to form a sub-committee with the city and county and possibly other city committees to get more involvement. Brian thought this was a good idea and mentioned that Commissioner George Urie has stressed that both committees should be involved in the Arbor Day celebration and should also involve other cities or counties as well. Jim brought up the idea of entering other cities free of charge in the parade to help them promote their committees.

Mark asked if this parade would be combined with the celebration the City has had with planting trees. Dennis said that we could still do the tree planting along with the parade. Jim mentioned some of their ideas of planting a tree at the County Courthouse to replace one that is dying. Another thought was having the celebration end up at City Park and possibly going across the street to the courthouse for the tree planting.

Dennis recommended that the Commission should form a sub-committee to work together with the different ideas of the parade and tree planting and to see what restrictions there will be for the celebration.

Brian Winn made a motion to form a sub-committee to discuss the opportunity for a City/County parade or celebration for Arbor Day. Bill Manker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Tony recommended that the sub-committee report back at the next meeting to see where they are at in the process.

Item #4 Public Workshop Program Report – Brian & Tony

Brian handed out a draft for the public workshop program to the Commission. He stated that Gerry Bates can't present at the workshop. Brian would like to keep the date that we've planned on and possibly have Dave Kiesig be the spokesperson for the workshop if his schedule will allow it. Dennis suggested having Tim Abbott do the hands on demonstration at City Park. He does a lot of pruning for the City and will have Kevin contact him to see if he would be willing to attend the workshop.

Mark mentioned that he will not be serving on the Commission at the time of the workshop but would be happy to be there to present the introduction. Brian asked the Commission to let him know if there is anything on the agenda that needs to be added or deleted.

Item #5 Old & New Business - Commission

Dennis updated the Commission on the Tree Enhancement Program. The City has been cutting back due to the economy and they are looking at how they can plan for a shortfall of $300,000 - $500,000. Capital Improvement projects are getting cut based on priorities so the Tree Enhancement Program was turned down. Dennis stated that there is a possibility of doing the program in the fall. He is planning on putting the program in the budget for next year but doesn't know if it will be approved. The budgeted amount for the project is $4800. Bill asked if there was a possibility of continuing the program if they have donations. Dennis said that is an option if the Commission still wants to do the program but it would be based only on donations. He will put it on the agenda for the May or June meeting.

Brian reported that he attended the Horticulture expo in Boise and said that Dave Kiesig was presented a gold medal award for 30 years of service in the INLA. He would like the Commission to send a card of congratulations to Dave.

Mary asked about the Hazard Tree Program. Dennis said that we have not received any calls on it. He will have Christi e-mail the Commission the list of insurance companies to call and remind them about donating toward the program. Mary asked if the homeowner's insurance companies have been sent anything. Dennis needs to get together with Philip so he can get the addresses where the hazard trees in the area are and then a letter can be sent to the homeowner stating that their insurance company might contribute to the removal of the tree. Brian asked if it would pose a problem if we start contacting the homeowner's insurance companies about the hazardous trees. He wondered if that would be a liability issue if their rates go up. The Commission will follow up with the letters that were sent to the insurance companies.

Tony had a discussion with Dave Kiesig about his schedule conflicting with the Commission meetings. Dave would like to attend the meetings but the meeting date would have to change. Dennis stated that the Commission could change the day they meet, it has once before. The only issue would be if the Council Chambers isn't available. He also informed the Commission that it doesn't have to be a noon meeting. The meeting could also be in the morning or evening. He suggested talking to Dave and see what days would work best for him.

Mary mentioned how much she enjoyed taking Dave's class and recommends taking it. She would recommend anyone new on the Commission to take his class.

Item #6 What Have You Seen? – Commission

Mary has seen a lot of topped trees on private property. Bill said that we've discussed this before and how it should apply to the whole city. Mark stated that it does apply to the whole city in public right of

ways. Other cities are enforcing no topping inside city limits but they have a Community Forester where we do not. Bill asked if it would be something the Code Enforcer could take on.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13pm.

The next meeting of the Tree Commission will be held **Tuesday, February 24th, 2009** at 12:00 noon in the **City of Twin Falls Council Chambers, located at 305 3rd Ave E.**

Christi Green

Christi Green
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation