



Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2023, 11:30 AM

Council Chamber Overflow Room CH-116
203 Main Avenue East- Twin Falls, Idaho

Members: Kirk Melton, Chairperson; Jade Titus, Vice-Chairperson; Debbie VanEngelen, Corey King; Ashley Squires; Micheal Metcalf; Heather Muth; Todd Shaw; Christiana Sipe-Pauley

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Kirk Melton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:37 a.m. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Kirk Melton, Chairperson; Jade Titus, Vice-Chairperson; Debbie VanEngelen, Corey King; Micheal Metcalf; Heather Muth; Todd Shaw; Christiana Sipe-Pauley

Members Absent: Ashley Squires

Council liaison (present): Craig Hawkins

Staff Present: Wendy Davis, Parks and Recreation Director; Nibardo Orozco, Parks Supervisor; John Pauley, Aquatics Supervisor (joined at 11:45 a.m.) ; Stacy McClintock, Recreation Supervisor (online); Elois Joseph, Parks Administrative Assistant.

2) General Public Input

There was no general public input at this meeting.

3) Consent Calendar

- a) Request to approve the meeting minutes from the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on May 9, 2023.

MOTION: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the consent calendar as presented. Heather Muth seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen, yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

4) Items of Consideration

- a) Commission Orientation: Donation Policy

Wendy Davis presented the item.

An overview of the donation policy and donation requests were discussed.

Commissioners were apprised of the information for donations to City Parks and Recreation Facilities.

Discussion ensued.

- b) Consider a request from Gretchen Qualls to donate a bench along the Canyon Rim Trail in memory of Kent W. Storrer and Jasper W. Qualls.

The request from Gretchen Qualls was discussed. Location and inscription as related to the Donation Policy were considered.

MOTION: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request as presented. Jade Titus seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

John Pauley joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

- c) Commission Orientation: Tree Ordinance

Wendy Davis presented the request, including the following:

- Tree Selection Guide/Manual
- Commission's jurisdiction and role as the Tree Commission were discussed.
- City Council as a potential appeal process.
- Current Tree Ordinance being revisited by City staff and Commission.
- Definition of Public Trees (Public Parks and Right of Way (ROW) trees)
- Right of Way trees were defined and described. Property owners have the responsibility to maintain the trees; however, they are under the jurisdiction of the Parks department and have special requirements.
- The "Statement of Purpose" outlined in the City Code as related to the Tree Commission was referenced.
- Trees that are considered hazardous can circumvent the Tree Removal Permit process as they constitute an immediate emergency.

- d) Consider a request to remove two Green Ash at 442 Rose St. N (CC)

Nibardo Orozco presented the request, including the following:

- Pictures of the tree were shown.
- Evidence of insect invasion.
- Dieback on the tree branches.
- Arborist review discussed.
- Wasps were found and re-homed safely, but were a contributor to the decline of the tree.

Discussion ensued regarding the company listed on the application for removal. Trees must be worked on by arborists that are licensed through the City of Twin Falls. The list is available for the public.

Discussion ensued regarding the homeowner's and city's responsibilities regarding right-of-way trees.

Code enforcement citations and violations regarding right-of-way trees were discussed.

MOTION (1): Corey King moved to approve the request contingent that the work is done by a licensed and insured arborist. Motion failed.

Discussion ensued regarding the replacement tree and the requirement for the work to be completed by a licensed and insured arborist. It was determined that this should be specified in the motion.

MOTION(2): Corey King moved to approve the request contingent that the work is done by a City licensed and insured arborist with a replacement tree approved by the Parks department. Michael Metcalf seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

- e) Consider a request to remove two Poplars along Morrison Landscape Strip. (CC)

Nibardo Orozco presented the request, including the following:

- Improper pruning practices resulting in damage to the trees.
- Trees being close to the power lines.
- Species is considered a nuisance species.
- Declining health of both trees.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the tree.

MOTION: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request as presented. Christiana Sipe-Pauley seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential concern about the placement of the replacement tree causing the same concerns with the power line. It was determined that the type of tree selected for replacement would address those concerns as to not cause the same issues in the future.

A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

- f) Consider a request to remove one Ash at Sunrise Park.

Nibardo Orozco presented the request, including the following:

- Internal decay and rot, as depicted by the fungus growth.
- Moderate likelihood of failure
- Bore infestation causing xylem damage.

Discussion ensued as to why this request would not be listed on the consent calendar. It was clarified that since the removal was initiated by the Parks department, the request is being brought to the commission for consideration so the department does not make decisions unilaterally.

Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the tree.

MOTION: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request as presented. Jade Titus seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

- g) Consider a request to remove two Oaks and one Ash at City Park

Nibardo Orozco presented the request, including the following:

- Bore infestation of the tree
- Concerns regarding the size, age, and location of the tree were mentioned.
- Milling the tree back to be used at the park as a bench, picnic table, or art piece.

Discussion ensued whether the tree would be milled for repurposing. Concerns regarding the ability to do the work in house, or if this would be a project that was contracted.

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of this project. The likelihood of the usability of the wood considering the disease or damage, was mentioned.

Two motions were made and approved for this item:

MOTION (1): Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request as presented. Todd Shaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

MOTION (2): Micheal Metcalf moved to request the Parks staff remove the trees so that the wood can be used in future projects and explore the possibility of milling these trees into usable lumber for Parks furniture or other projects. Christiana Sipe-Pauley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

- h) Consider a request to remove one Green Ash at 459 6th Ave N

Nibardo Orozco presented the request including the following:

- Nails driven into the tree trunk can cause infection.
- Sidewalk has been cracked due to the roots.
- Nearby Ash trees have leafed out, but this tree is lacking foliage.

Discussion ensued regarding the sidewalk removal-replacement and potential damage to the tree roots. It was determined that there would be minor damage to the tree if sidewalk replacement work was to be completed.

Discussion ensued how long ago the images of the tree were taken. Concerns regarding the season of the image could have been the reason why the tree does not have as much foliage.

The large root flaring toward the sidewalk was mentioned. Concerns regarding the success of protecting the tree roots while being so close to the sidewalk were mentioned.

The potential lifespan of the tree in its current condition was mentioned. The lifespan of the tree with the construction of the sidewalk and potential root damage was discussed.

Commissioners visiting the tree to make a better determination was mentioned.

MOTION: Corey King moved to table item h) to be placed on the “Items of Consideration” on the July Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Jade Titus seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted. Kirk Melton, yes; Jade Titus, yes; Debbie VanEngelen; yes; Corey King, yes; Micheal Metcalf, yes; Heather Muth, yes; Todd Shaw, yes; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, yes. Approved 8 to 0.

i) Discuss Implementing Themes in Park Development Plans

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

j) Continue Park Use Fee Discussion

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

5) Department Updates

a) Department Updates

John Pauley gave an update on the City Pool, including the following:

- Health Inspection passed today.
- Brown stains in the pool liner seem to be triggered by the sun. The effects are cosmetic in nature, they pose no hazard or obstruction for the use of the pool.
- The company that installed the liner has been contacted regarding this concern.
- Discussion ensued regarding the possible causes of the discoloration of the pool lining.

- Aquatics programming have been successful despite recent thunderstorms.

Nibardo Orozco gave an update on Parks, including the following:

- The park department are working diligently to maintain the facilities despite significant shortages in labor.
- Playground improvements, including swing replacement, playground equipment, fall material.

Discussion ensued regarding the sledding hill. The Vista Bonita Park improvement site plan include an activity hill for consideration.

Wendy Davis commended the Parks department working through the challenges of the 2023 season.

6) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:07 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elois Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Elois Joseph, Recording Secretary