



Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 11:30 AM

Members Present: Kirk Melton, Chairman; Gabe Ostyn; Kevin Jensen; Ashley Squires; Micheal Metcalf; Heather Muth.

Members Absent: Sherry Murray, Vice-Chairman; Corey King; Jade Titus.

Staff Present: Wendy Davis; Shayne Nope; Jonathan Spendlove; Stacy McClintock; Kevin Skelton; Elois Joseph.

Guests: J Francis Florence, Westerra Development.

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Kirk Melton called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2) Consent Calendar

- a) Request to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes from April 13, 2021.

Kirk Melton requested to remove the Request to Request to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes from April 13, 2021 from the Consent Calendar. There was an error that needed to be corrected regarding item 3b on the minutes, it was noted that "Jade Titus" nominated Sherry Murray for Vice-Chairman, which needed to be corrected to "Kirk Melton" nominated Sherry Murray for Vice-Chairman.

MOTION: Kirk Melton moved to approve the meeting minutes with the correction, Micheal Metcalf seconded the motion. Approved 6 to 0

- b) Consider a request to approve a bench donation from Kevin and Debbie Dane

MOTION: Kirk Melton moved to approve the consent calendar pertaining to item b only, Heather Muth seconded the motion. Approved 6 to 0

3) Items of Consideration

- a) Commission Orientation: Tree Commission and Tree Ordinance

Wendy Davis conducted the orientation for the City's Tree Commission and Tree Ordinance, including the following items:

- parameters of the tree removal permit process and the approval/ denial process.
- City of Twin Falls as a “Tree City” were defined.
- Right-of -ways, public parks, and public trees were discussed. Guidelines are also listed for personal trees that are not “public trees”.
- The replacement tree process and requirements
- The Tree Selection Guidebook was discussed.
- The Parks Department’s role in the tree removal process
- The role of the Parks and Recreation Commission as the City’s Tree Commission was discussed.
- Items in the City’s Tree Ordinance was discussed.
- Discussion ensued regarding the requirements for tree removal companies to be licensed through the City of Twin Falls to work on public trees.
- Discussion ensued regarding the definition of “nuisance trees” as defined in the City’s Tree Ordinance.
- The assessed value of a tree was discussed.
- The Park’s and Recreation Commission’s role in reviewing and amending the Ordinance was discussed.

b) Request to remove tree 230 4th Ave. E.

Kevin Skelton presented the request and the process involved in the tree removal permit including the following:

- Discussion ensued regarding the terminology used in the tree removal permit.
- The City’s sidewalk grant program was briefly discussed.
- Discussion ensued regarding the lack of trees on the street where the tree in the permit is located.

MOTION: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request. Heather Muth seconded the motion. Roll call vote determined all present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

c) Request to remove tree 1306 Poplar Ave.

Kevin Skelton explained the request including the following:

- Discussion ensued regarding tree requests when work has been started without the proper permits. Wendy Davis explained that there can be penalties associated with damaging the trees or working on public trees without
- Discussion ensued regarding the assessment of whether damage was occurred prior to the request for the tree removal and submission of the tree removal permit.
- Idaho power was discussed in terms that they do not need to get approval from the City if they are encroaching the power lines.

MOTION: Kevin Jensen moved to approve the request Heather Muth seconded the motion.

Roll call vote determined that all present voted in favor of the motion. Approved 6 to 0.

d) Consider a request to remove trees 138-198 4th Ave. E.

J Francis Florence presented the request, including the following:

- The approval of the building permit for 11 homes and a site plan that were submitted by his organization.
- The damage of 2 Ash Trees and the request for the removal of 2 Birch Trees that affect the development in progress
- Concerns regarding the permit process and the inclusion of inter-departmental communication with the processes that affect multiple departments
- The improper trimming of the Ash trees that would have long-term, irreparable damage to the trees
- Discussion ensued regarding situations where the individual does not know the right-of-way rules, and the permitting processes required
- Discussion ensued regarding the fact that the Birch trees discussed in the proposal are still healthy trees. There are trees that are the last few that are not common in the area.
- Discussion ensued regarding the net gain of trees proposed with the site plan as 4 trees will be removed but 13 trees will be added for a net gain of 9 trees total.
- Monetary or trees-in-kind as a compromise for the violation were discussed
- Options were discussed as a compromise for the developer/applicant that would abide by the rules and ordinances while preventing a hindrance on the development's construction schedule.

Heather Muth left the meeting.

Ashley Squires left the meeting in person and attended the meeting virtually through Teams.

MOTION 1: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the request. Kevin Jensen seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

MOTION 2: Kirk Melton moved to condition the motion and request with an appraisal and discussion of a compensation of cash, or in kind, or both to be discussed at a following meeting proceeding with the development. Kevin Jensen seconded the motion. The motion did not pass.

Discussion ensued regarding adding the condition to the motion of the request: the applicant pays for the appraisal of the trees and the lost value of the trees and adding four trees-in-kind

MOTION 3: Micheal Metcalf moved to add the condition with the penalty of trees in kind for 8 additional 15-gallon trees to be planted within the City of Twin Falls at the Parks discretion. Kevin Jensen seconded the motion. Roll call vote determined the motion was approved 4 to 1

MOTION 4: Micheal Metcalf moved to approve the motion. Kevin Jensen seconded. Roll call vote to approve the request that the applicant provided. Roll call vote determined the motion was approved 3 to 2.

4) Department Updates

a) Department updates

In the interest of time, department updates were not discussed during this meeting.

5) Adjournment

Kirk Melton adjourned the meeting at approximately 1: 48 p.m.

Elois Joseph, Administrative Assistant

Recording Secretary