

**MINUTES
PAYETTE COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMITTEE**

April 14, 2011

3:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Gene Gray, Tony Mell, Larry Kelley and Dick Bronson were present.

Members Absent: Curt VanPatten

Staff Present: Randy Fales, Mary Cordova and Bobbie Black.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Arbor Day: The Committee discussed the upcoming Arbor Day celebration to be held April 29th at Centennial Park. Gene Gray stated that we might get the Sterling Award for a City that has had growth for at least 10 years. Gary Bates from the Urban Forestry from Southern Idaho might be present for the celebration. Gene Gray talked about how a City becomes a Tree City USA. On April 28th the committee will go to Westside to help plant seedling for a 5th grade class. Curt VanPatten will give the opening statement to the class. Davey Trees and Idaho Power will also assist in the classroom.

B. Payette Community Forestry Ordinance: Gene Gray stated that he has been working on the City's current tree ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Tree removal at Central Park – Library Construction Project: Randy Fales stated that there is a large maple and oak tree that needs to be removed. Last time trees were removed there was a huge out cry from the public. The oak tree seems to have some significance. The architect wants the oak tree to stay. Randy Fales believes that there is rot going into the main trunk and going down. If the tree is kept it will be a liability to the City. He has visited with an arborist from Boise and he recommends the tree be removed. The tree removal company will salvage some of the wood and slab it. He will put a stamp on each piece of lumber stating where it came from. The Committee asked Mr. Fales if he will put a replacement tree in and he stated yes. The library construction will have a total of 14 trees removed. There is another local tree contractor that thinks there is nothing wrong with the oak tree.

The Committee adjourned at 3:30 to go to Central Park and reconvened the meeting at 4:00.

The Committee discussed that the maple and oak trees are old and dangerous and is a public safety issue. It was asked if the roots were disturbed, would the tree be okay and the Committee stated no, it is still not okay to keep them. The trees will be taken down on Saturday if approved. The contractor will load the surplus wood onto trailers for people. We asked him to give us a bid for the work. We asked the library project manager to give us a bid and then went to the tree contractor directly. Tony Mell stated that he had asked Richard Long to attend the meeting. Richard Long talked to Mary Cordova and stated that he would help if needed.

Dick Bronson made a motion to recommend to the Parks Superintendent to remove the silver maple tree. The motion was seconded by Larry Kelley and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Tony Mell made a motion to recommend to the Parks Superintendent to remove the oak tree due to health of the tree and public safety and that a burr oak tree is planted to replace the existing tree. The motion was seconded by Larry Kelley and passed by unanimous voice vote.

B. Trees in right of ways: Discussed why we are not taking trees in the right of way and was told that is private property and the responsibility of the property owner. The Committee would like the advice of the City Attorney as to what our liability is. The Committee discussed if there

was some funds available for home owners that don't have the income to do. No programs were available that they knew of, but maybe look at some kind of fundraiser that the City Council could match the funds and people can apply for.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held May 12th, 2011 at 3:00 pm at band shell.

Dick Bronson made a motion to adjourn at 4:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Tony Mell and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Recording Secretary
Bobbie Black