

BRIGHAM CITY SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Minutes for TUESDAY, December 13, 2011

Present: Arlie Pittman, Chair
Mary Coleman, Commission
Phyllis Nielsen, Commission Member
Mike Phillips, Commission Member
IvaBeth Wilcox, Commission Member

City Staff: Dennis J. Fife, Mayor
Tyler Pugsley, Acting Public Works Director
Jolene Crockett, Administrative Assistant

Excused: Bob Marabella, Councilmember

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mary Coleman to approve the minutes of November 8, 2011, second by Mike Phillips, motion carried unanimously.

Mayors Remarks:

Mayor Fife greeted the group and explained we have a new sidewalk on Forest Street where we were told we could not have a park strip, but we do have a 2' easement. He said he wanted the Shade Tree to consider what type of trees we could plant there. Phyllis stated 2' is not very much room for a tree to grow. The Mayor stated possibly some of the property owner's would allow for more of an easement.

Mayor Fife also explained he had received an informal request from the LDS Church regarding the removal of some of the trees in front of their temple that is currently being built.

He stated that in 1937 there were 10 trees in front of the tabernacle which sits across the street from the LDS temple and now there are only 4. He provided pictures for the Commission to review. He showed in these pictures how crowded and unhealthy the trees are in the parking strip in front of the temple site compared to how healthy and full the trees look in the parking strip across the street in front of the tabernacle. The Mayor's proposal is for the City, as much as possible, to match the layout of the trees in the parking strip in front of the tabernacle.

The Mayor informed the group that the LDS Church would be planting 50-100 trees on the temple site as well as installing a beautiful fountain. He said the beautiful landscaping would not be able to be appreciated as much by the community with the large trees in the parking strip blocking the view.

Mayor Fife stated he has read the minutes wherein the Commission discussed these particular trees. He has read the statements both positive and negative and what he would ask now of the Commission, is that they just consider the possibility of the removal of the trees, in relation to the information he has provided.

He also said that the LDS Church will bring a formal request through the Shade Tree and that the Commissions' recommendation will be considered in the Council's decision regarding this issue.

Mike said he has had discussions with others and he has asked people if they can see where the trees have been removed on Main Street. He encourages them to drive down Main Street and see if they can determine where this has occurred. He said we have been resistant to taking out healthy trees but, from time to time, we have allowed it and we ask that they replace the tree they remove somewhere on their property.

Mike continued saying that the people he has spoken to had no idea there were more trees on one side of the street than the other. We don't like to see trees taken out. Some say we want all the trees gone, but I disagree. His opinion is that we mimic the trees across the street if they replace with more trees. Mary commented that there will be many people upset about removing the trees.

Tyler stated that he had been approached last week about taking over the irrigation system. If they do this they will be interfering with the rootballs. His concern is the possible negative impact to the trees when they are removing the irrigation. Mike said they need to tread lightly. Discussion followed regarding proper steps to protect the health of the trees during this process. The Mayor said after this step they will take control of the parkway in regards to watering, etc.

Mayor Fife exited the meeting @ 4:50pm.

Arbor Day

Tyler explained that we are still hoping to have the program at Discovery Grove Park which is adjacent to Discovery school. He said at the next meeting he would bring the map layout for the park as well as landscaping plans for the Commission to review. At the January meeting we will make assignments for Arbor Day.

Tree City USA Application

Tyler explained that he and Jolene had been working on the application and that it would be turned in this week.

Other:

- **Resignation of Public Works Director** - Tyler informed the group that on Friday, of last week, Blake Foncesbeck resigned from the City and that Tyler had been asked by the Mayor/Bruce Leonard to take the position of Acting Public Works Director.
- **Function of Shade Tree Commission** – Tyler explained to the group that he would like this commission to run as other commissions in the City do. He said he attends commission meetings where the commission has the expertise. They plan their own agendas, make their assignments and generally take charge and run the entire meeting. He and Jolene would be there to provide assistance where needed but the general responsibility of the commission would fall to its members. Tyler said that he realizes that Arlie is not here today and that we will review this next month when our Chair is in attendance.