

## **CARSON CITY SHADE TREE COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the May 6, 2009 Meeting**

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A special meeting of the Carson City Shade Tree Council was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 in the City Corporate Yard Conference Room, Building 7, 3303 Butti Way, Carson City, Nevada.

**PRESENT:** Chairperson Lee-Ann Keever  
Member Carole Brewer  
Member Kyle Horvath  
Member Terrill Ozawa  
Member Roy Trenoweth

**STAFF:** Roger Moellendorf, Parks and Recreation Department Director  
Jano Barnhurst, Recording Secretary

**NOTE:** A recording of these proceedings, the council's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk-Recorder's Office, and available for review during regular business hours.

**CALL TO ORDER ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM (1-0026)** - Chairperson Keever called the meeting to Order at 5:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present. Vice Chairperson Shirk was absent and excused.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS (1-0022)** - None.

**1. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA (1-0025)** - None.

**2. AGENDA ITEMS**

**2(A) DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE SHADE TREE COUNCIL'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2009/2010 (1-0028)** - Chairperson Keever introduced the item and provided a letter from Vice Chairperson Shirk outlining what she would like to accomplish and a goal setting outline from Mr. Moellendorf which were incorporated into the record. Mr. Moellendorf reviewed the purpose of the Shade Tree Council (STC) pursuant to Chapter 2.18 of the Carson City Municipal Code (CCMC). He said, "it's surprising as organizations and groups tend to evolve that sometimes you forget what your original purpose was and you find you're going off in a direction that wasn't really an original intention. That can be okay as long as it's effective and you're getting things done, you just change the purpose." Mr. Moellendorf read section 2.18.010(3), which defines the purpose of the STC, into the record and asked if the STC is fulfilling this purpose. "Are there things we're not doing or things we're doing that we shouldn't be doing?" Member Ozawa commented that they have positive input on an effective urban canopy. She's been photographing trees and found problems with topping in places where there are no power lines so a goal would be to have publicity on the negative aspect of topping trees. Chairperson Keever commented that the STC doesn't provide a report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and suggested attending a yearly meeting to advise what STC has done, what they hope to accomplish, and getting input from the BOS on what they want from the STC. The annual report could come from the documentation done for Tree City USA.

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Member Horvath commented that an item on his list of goals was increasing communication between other Boards for which STC serves as liaison. He likes the idea of the annual report, not just to formally assess what has been done but for the input from the BOS and other councils. "They can connect people. Making connections between Boards should be a goal of ours. Communication could be made better."

(1-0150) Mr. Moellendorf read the list of prior achievements of the STC into the record and asked if there was anything else to add. Chairperson Keever suggested the Treadway award and that the STC produced a history including photos and text of Carson City trees. The STC hosts the annual Arbor Day celebration with a youth poster contest. Individual council members have been involved in volunteer tree projects and anticipate further involvement.

Mr. Moellendorf passed CCMC Chapter 13.04 and inquired if section 13.04.070, Designation of Landmark Trees, would be an interesting project. Member Horvath suggested creating an inventory of designated trees or past George Washington Ferris award winners. Member Ozawa suggested trees could be selected in historical areas, using markers for both homes and trees. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that many of the large, significant trees at the Capitol were planted by George Washington Ferris. Landmark Trees are defined as "trees on public property having special status due to their age, size, shape, species, location, historical association, visual quality or other contribution to the city's character." He suggested that landmark trees be addressed, citizens asked for nominations, and a number of trees could be selected each year. Member Brewer expressed her concern that an arborist be involved in checking the trees.

(1-0433) - Member Horvath suggested that besides certifying trees as historically significant, STC should adopt a promotional plan. Information can be provided regarding certain historically significant trees for visitors to Carson City. Mr. Moellendorf suggested a hangman's tree. Chairperson Keever commented that she will add this to the June agenda. Member Horvath commented that in such an open area there can be landmark trees that literally are landmarks. Mr. Moellendorf suggested expanding it to landmark groves - a group of trees itself is the landmark.

Member Brewer commented on trees being damaged by topping on private property and a goal would be exploring whether people cutting trees are certified arborists. Mr. Moellendorf said that wouldn't stop the individual homeowner from cutting his own trees. Member Horvath suggested a passive aggressive technique of photographing trees and advertising them on Cat10 as Carson's worst topped trees. Member Brewer suggested enforcement of certification laws as a proposed goal. Member Horvath suggested a newspaper article with photos. Chairperson Keever suggested placing an insert in the newspaper, utility billings or watering notices. Mr. Moellendorf said the whole idea is to increase public awareness. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that enforcing the public nuisance ordinance on dead or decaying trees is done occasionally and Molly Sinnott is sent out for an opinion. A public tree will be taken care of.

(1-0620) - Mr. Moellendorf suggested a goal of planting a certain number of trees in a certain time period. Member Brewer said it would have to be a realistic number and Chairperson Keever commented that there would have to be resources to nurture the trees. Member Horvath suggested mapping the area, knowing

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the public spaces and realistically what could be grown. Mr. Moellendorf commented that things to consider are planting on public or private property, whether to plant yourselves or encouraging others to plant. Chairperson Keever said big names are a draw. Mr. Moellendorf suggested planting 100 trees a year or investigate other communities' tree planting goals. Member Brewer thought it a good idea as a long term goal may not get fulfilled. Member Horvath suggested teaming up with Minden, Dayton and surrounding areas in order to pull all resources together with big names, promotions and resources to plant a million trees in the whole eastern side of the Sierras, Reno and Tahoe. Mr. Moellendorf suggested promoting the increase of planting trees. "What hasn't been done? If there's a goal to plant so many trees, what information do you have to have? You'd have to see where the trees are now and see what is available to take care of the trees." A street tree inventory has never been completed and suggested surveying trees or tree planting locations.

In response to a comment, Mr. Moellendorf replied that the council defers too many items which is the reason for not getting many things accomplished. The council needs to be more decisive and not defer so many things otherwise things start piling up. Member Ozawa suggested starting small and checking things off the list. "We are able to allocate enough water to maintain what we have if it's done responsibly. We don't want to overload our city with trees that can't be supported. Plant trees that are water tolerant and native." Mr. Moellendorf suggested a recommended tree list which can be distributed and promoted more effectively. Chairperson Keever suggested having Molly Sinnott along with Greenhouse Garden Center conduct an educational seminar specifically for trees that do well in this area.

Member Horvath commented that the easiest and most effective way to reach people is electronically and a lot of promotion needs to be on the Website. "It's not going to get out there if it's only convenient for us to get out there." Promoting poster contests could be posted online as well as trees of visual, historical or landmark interest in addition to past winners of the George Washington Ferris award. In response to a comment, Chairperson Keever commented that her son designs web pages and offered to work free of charge with the City's IT department to create an independent website linked to the City. Member Brewer commented that there is enough money to hire someone to update the Website. Chairperson Keever mentioned that she had spoken with the Director of Academics at Capital Christian whose teachers would be glad to participate in the poster contest as long as it met the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. Member Horvath suggested a photo contest wherein citizens submit photos of Carson City trees and help decide on landmark trees. Age groups could be done and winners posted on the Website and in art galleries. Member Brewer asked to add hiring someone to create a website on the next agenda. Member Horvath suggested approaching the IT program at WNC as a student's project to create a website. Mr. Moellendorf suggested that people could contact the Website with tree planting information, and it could keep a running count of the trees.

(0-1093) - Mr. Moellendorf passed the BOS' goals and asked whether the STC's goals are in conformance with the BOS. Member Horvath suggested the possibility of conducting fund raisers, such as selling t-shirts, bake sales, stickers, sticker design contests and just getting the community involved. He inquired if there were other committees that STC could be more involved with, such as Carson River Advisory. Member Ozawa commented that on Public Lands Days, 1,200 slips were planted along the Carson River along with the clean up so that could be dovetailed. Mr. Moellendorf commented that Carson River

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Advisory has a clean up day and STC could join in that effort. Chairperson Keever suggested inviting them to STC meetings. Member Horvath advised that he had spoken with Vern Krahn regarding the Mills Park arboretum and that the project had fallen by the wayside, but there was a master plan and an inventory started. A self-guided map could be created, and it would be an easy project to finish if some momentum were put behind it. Member Brewer suggested the creation of a website should be a very high priority to help in carrying out STC's goals and fund raising. In response to a question, Mr. Moellendorf replied that in order to obtain grants, the BOS would have to grant permission. Member Ozawa commented that she works with the Audubon Society who has monies available for education and could approach them regarding tree funding. She will ask an Audubon member to a meeting.

(1-1380) - Proposed Goals:

- 1) Public education awareness; including proper pruning, prevention of topping, recommended list of appropriate tree species, Greenhouse Garden Center, website.
- 2) Investigate contracting STC website; including link to city's website, involve City's IT department.
- 3) Explore funding opportunity; including fund raising, corporate sponsorship, grants (Nevada Tree Council, Audubon Society).
- 4) Improve communications with BOS and other advisory committees; including annual report to BOS, outreach to other committees.
- 5) Develop a Landmark Tree Recognition Program; include public involvement.
- 6) Pursue enforcement of arborists certification.
- 7) Create Master Plan (tree map) self-guided pamphlet of Mills Park Aboretum; include on website.

Chairperson Keever entertained a motion. **Member Ozawa moved to approve the seven tentative goals that we have consolidated at the meeting tonight. Member Brewer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

Chairperson Keever advised that Ms. Sinnott contacted her about the date of her seminar being moved and felt it didn't give STC enough time to make an informed decision. Joining her in 2010 would be acceptable. Member Brewer expressed concern about joining with her as all of the STC's money is made from the Fall Tree Care Seminar. "We can't afford to go with someone and get half the money we usually get if we get that. If we go with Molly strictly we may not realize the revenue we could generate ourselves." Chairperson Keever suggested continuing this item to the June meeting.

### **3. NON-ACTION ITEMS**

**STATUS REPORTS AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF** (1-1858) - Member Ozawa reported that she has been photographing trees in blossom and abused trees which will be ongoing. She'll be making a photo album of Carson City in bloom and fall colors.

Member Horvath reported that CGI Inc.'s landscaping is great and would like to nominate them for the George Washington Ferris award after five years. They have about 25-30 trees and he will talk to their landscaping crew. CGI is located on Arrowhead Drive east of the airport.

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Chairperson Keever reported that Daughters of American Revolution want to plant a tree now in Mills Park and have their dedication in July. Oak is their national tree. They have been invited to the June meeting, but may or may not come. They may want to work with STC next year on Arbor Day, although they want to get more of a feel of how the council operates.

Chairperson Keever suggested talking with Rose in the City Manager's office to obtain a list of people who have previously applied to see if they are still interested in serving on the council. Mr. Moellendorf will contact her.

**MEMBERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION (1-1975)** - None.

**4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (1-1987)** - None.

**5. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (1-1988)** - Chairperson Keever entertained a motion to adjourn. Member Ozawa moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m. Member Brewer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The Minutes of the May 6, 2009 Carson City Shade Tree Council meeting are so approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2009.

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LEE-ANN KEEVER, Chair