

# MOSCOW PATHWAYS COMMISSION



Jonathan Gradin  
Chair

~Minutes~

David Schott  
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**

**5:00 PM**

**Mayor's Conference Room  
206 E 3rd Street**

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The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM

**PRESENT:** Erin Bacon; Margaret Dibble, Vice Chair; Jonathan Gradin, Chair; Robert Heckendorn

**ABSENT:** Judy Brown, Secretary; Becky Chastain; Tanya Denison; Anne Zabala, City Council Liaison

**STAFF:** Donna Howard, Staff Support; David Schott, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2019 - Gradin**

**ACTION:** Minutes approved as presented.

Dibble moved and Bacon seconded approval of the March minutes as presented. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Absent: Brown, Chastain, Denison. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

### **2. Public comment**

Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public. There were none.

### **3. 2019 Annual Report (ACTION ITEM) – Gradin**

The MPC's Annual Report to City Council is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Council Chambers. Bacon observed this was two days before Bike to School Day. Gradin shared his draft of this year's presentation and, after discussing, the commissioners suggested: adding a photo to the slide about the new underpass (Gradin); emphasizing that the MPC was aware that the underpass would flood (Dibble); rearranging/labeling some of the photos to match up to the text (Heckendorn); including the video City employee Zac Ellis made to promote the underpass (Dibble). Schott suggested that the underpass promotional video might be too complicated and run over the time allotment and the commissioners agreed not to include it in this year's annual report. Heckendorn asked about the report's time limit; Schott recommended no more than six minutes and Gradin replied he will aim for five minutes. The group discussed adding a new goal about counting path users. Gradin will make the changes suggested at tonight's meeting.

**ACTION:** Annual report approved with suggested changes.

Dibble moved and Heckendorn seconded approving the annual report with recommended changes. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Absent: Brown, Chastain, Denison. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

### **4. Consideration of the 2019 Farmers Market Booth (ACTION ITEM) – Gradin**

The previously requested dates were not available and alternate dates of June 8<sup>th</sup> & August 17<sup>th</sup> were now offered for consideration. After a discussion resulting in none present being available to volunteer, Bacon suggested sending an email to all of the Commissioners to see if those absent were available to staff these

dates. Gradin will also check to see if there are other open dates that would work for the MPC commissioners' schedules.

**NO ACTION:** Postponed pending availability of absent commissioners and/or other available dates.

#### **5. Report: Bike to Work Day – Dibble**

Dibble said that she was unsure of the City's level of involvement in Bike to Work Day. Each year the City issues a press release about the event and the Mayor makes a proclamation about May as Bike Month. Dibble said that she and a couple of other individuals make the arrangements for Bike to Work Day. She asks for donations from local businesses such as One World Café and Gritman Medical Center's Food Services for refreshments. This year's event will be on Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 AM at the corner of Sixth and Main Streets, in front of One World Café. Also during that week is Bike to School Day, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. Report: Highway 8 Underpass Ribbon Cutting – Schott**

Schott said that the event was originally going to be handled by another City department but now Parks and Recreation will be coordinating the event. No date has been set for the event and Schott asked if those present had a preference for which day to schedule the grand opening celebration. Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> was suggested as a good day with respect to other local events. Schott also asked if any of the MPC members would like to speak at the event; Dibble volunteered to speak. Schott will forward this information to City Administration.

#### **7. Report: Pathway Lighting - Gradin & Schott**

Schott was pleased to report that the property adjacent to Otness Park is being developed to include an 8' path and the Community Development Director offered to install bollard lighting along the path. Schott was hesitant to install more solar bollards due to their past poor performance but was told these will be wired into the electrical system. Gradin appreciated that there would be more options for pedestrians as that area was prone to flooding and muddy conditions.

#### **8. Report: Highway 8 Underpass Video – Dibble**

On Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> Dibble was invited by Zack Ellis, the City's Computer Systems & Digital Media Specialist, to participate in filming an informational video about the underpass. She was joined by Karin & Greg Clifford, Donna Howard and Brandy Sullivan and her husband. Dibble said it was fun going back and forth on the path until Ellis had enough footage for his video. The fog and cold temperatures may have reduced the number of trail users but there was one person in particular who was talking to Dibble about designing a new pathway. Schott thinks he was previously contacted by the same person and will reach out to her regarding her plan for a path from the north end of town to the UI Campus. Dibble said there were at least four people using the underpass around 8 AM when the video was being filmed.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPEN DISCUSSION**

Gradin was contacted by Michael Kyte, Chair of the City's Transportation Commission, asking about the MPC's stance on E-Bikes. Gradin shared the MPC's meeting minutes with Kyte and will meet with him to discuss what each commission is working on and how they can coordinate their efforts.

There was a discussion about the flurry of social media comments regarding the recent flooding and closing of the underpass. Gradin expressed frustration at the negative comments regarding the closure, especially on Facebook, and he and Sullivan replied to the commenters that the flooding was expected. The preliminary report estimated the underpass would be submerged an average of 4.7 days but the public comments were derogatory regarding the design. The debris left behind on the trail and the clogging of the underpass grates were also discussed.

Schott said his staff will be restriping the pathways this summer. They will paint stripes at Identity where construction affected the pathway, the new path along White Avenue near Styner to the Fairgrounds and refresh existing striping.

Dibble asked about Kristin Armstrong path repairs; Schott replied that was the University's stretch of path to maintain.

Gradin requested a reflective panel at the White Avenue on both sides of the post, not just on the one side as it now is marked. Schott asked Gradin to email him a photo of it to clarify what he requested.

The commissioners then discussed the pathway by the Identity Moscow Apartments with respect to the traffic flow and lighting. The possibility of counting trail users was considered; some options mentioned included trail cameras, sign in sheets, survey questions and volunteers with clipboards. Schott will see if there were any funds available for this request. Bacon asked about the pathway lights at Identity; Schott replied that did not materialize. Gradin would like to see better lighting but Schott said one concern was light pollution near residences. Dibble expects the striping will help path users. Gradin asked if it could be on the agenda in the distant future and Schott replied he would include it in the 2021 budget request. Gradin would also like to add a goal about collecting path usage data.

Schott shared information about the upcoming Looking Glass Academy workshop being held on May 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. He provided a brochure about this training intended to help make Moscow safer, "more walkable and advocate for healthy changes."

Schott said that Becky Couch, Director of Parking and Transportation at the University of Idaho, will attend the May meeting.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

1. Next meeting: May 14, 2019.

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#### ADJOURN

Adjourned at 6:02

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