

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

Minutes

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday
September 3, 2019**

5:00 PM

**Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM

PRESENT: Daniel Cronan; Clark J Filip, Vice Chair; Lauren Goss; Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary; David Rauk.

ABSENT: Debbie Kadlec, Chair.

STAFF Donna Howard; David Schott, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director; Gina Taruscio, City Council Liaison.

1. Announcements

2. Approval of Minutes from August 6, 2019 (ACTION ITEM) – Filip

David Rauk requested Schott's name to be corrected as it was misspelled in the minutes as Scott.

ACTION: Approve minutes with amendment.

Rauk motioned and Filip seconded approval of the minutes as amended. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Hamilton, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: Goss. Absent: Kadlec. Motion carried.

3. Public Comment Period

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

4. Consideration of the 2019 Commission Survey Report (ACTION ITEM) – Filip

The commissioners discussed questions for inclusion in the bi-annual City of Moscow Commissions' Survey. The questions, designed to gauge the citizens' opinion of public services, are due to City Administration by September 16.

Question #1: What is the most important positive feature provided by Downtown street trees? (Rank highest to lowest.)

- a. Shade.
- b. Aesthetics (fall color, form, beauty.)
- c. Reduce noise.
- d. Reduce pollution.
- e. Attract birds and pollinators.
- f. Species diversity.
- g. Attract consumers.
- h. LED string lights in trees.

Question #2: What type of trees would you like to see on a walking tour within Moscow?

- a. Old trees
- b. Tall trees
- c. Rare trees
- d. Historic trees
- e. Arbor Day trees

- f. Unusual trees
- g. Food bearing trees

ACTION: Approve questions for the 2019 Commission Survey.

Hamilton motioned and Rauk seconded the two questions as discussed. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Hamilton, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Kadlec. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the October 5, 2019 Farmers Market (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec

The MTC discussed volunteer scheduling and the tri-fold's content for the 10/5/19 Farmers Market. Filip will not be able to attend. Rauk will set up and take down; he's also willing to stay at the booth as needed. Hamilton can be there from 9 AM to 11 AM. Taruscio will be there from 10 AM to noon. Cronan will check his schedule and help if available. The trifold content will include excerpts from the MTC Street Tree Planting Guide and Guide for New Tree Planting: planting basics and best practices, staking, choosing the best tree for the site, incorporating Wisescape concepts in tree planting. Goss offered to contribute additional brochures from the UI Pitkin Forest. Commissioners were asked to email display pictures or write-ups to Howard for printing, she will print a larger version of the tree planting diagram from the publications and can provide fasteners. Rauk offered to bring potted trees with a cutaway window showing root formation.

ACTION: Designate Tree Commission members who will staff the booth and approve a theme for the event.

Hamilton motioned and Goss seconded to accept the staffing and content of the display board as discussed. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Hamilton, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Kadlec. Motion carried.

6. Tree Classes for the Parks and Recreation Programs Winter Brochure (ACTION ITEM) - Schott

Tree class submissions for the next brochure are due mid-October; this will include activities scheduled from December 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020. Hamilton will contact instructor Deb Pehrson about fruit tree pruning classes for late February. Cronan will contact former MTC member David Griffith about co-teaching another landscaping with native plants class. He will also pursue a design studio with Griffith, Iris Mayes and Nichole Baker focusing on incorporating Wisescape concepts in tree planting areas. Filip offered to organize a cross country skiing class to observe winter trees and their interaction with snow and the surrounding topography. Schott is looking forward to planning workshops at the Harvest Park site, pending City Council's approval of the site design plan at their meeting later tonight. Rauk suggested getting in touch with Apple Detective David Benscoter about offering a class this winter and will forward the contact information to Schott.

ACTION: Review and approve classes for winter Parks and Recreation Brochure.

Rauk motioned and Cronan seconded to approve the class ideas discussed. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Hamilton, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Kadlec. Motion carried.

7. Information for the Public within the Monthly Utility Bill (ACTION ITEM) - Filip

The MTC discussed ideas for a tree themed, informative insert included in the City's monthly utility bill mailing. Filip spoke with Jen Pfflner, City Assistant Supervisor, who requested the flyer by the 18th of the month for the next billing cycle. Some possible topics included winterizing trees, using ice melt around trees, proper pruning practices, painting tree trunks, using a licensed tree contractor, leaf composting and usefulness as mulch, Wisescaping with trees. Filip offered to put together a draft and email it to the MTC members for input and approval.

ACTION: Approve content and assign Commissioners or take such actions deemed appropriate.

Cronan motioned and Goss seconded to approve via email content for a billing insert. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Hamilton, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Kadlec. Motion carried.

8. Report: Pruning Practices within the City of Moscow - Rauk

There appears to be trees within the City that were recently topped or pruned in a way that is described as lion's tailing. The MTC has discussed ideas to educate both tree contractors and the public on proper pruning techniques. Schott collected, from the August meeting, Rauk's suggestions to improve the contractors' skill level as follows:

- a) Send letters to the all of the current, licensed tree contractors from an educational standpoint with an easy to read, simple informative letter describing poor versus proper pruning techniques.
- b) Modify the tree exam to beef up the pruning questions.
- c) Reach out to the public by sending information in the utility bill.
- d) Require or strongly recommend a 1-hour training session each winter to tree contractors regarding proper pruning practices. (Would this require changing code? Schott mentioned the Public Works meeting – they sent out an invitation, provided pizza, talked about
- e) Rauk will contact cities similar to Moscow about how they handle contractors working on private trees to stop unsafe practices.

ACTION: No action, discussion item.

9. Report: Harvest Park Status Report - Schott

Schott will attend tonight's City Council meeting as they consider the design proposal; the MTC, Parks and Recreation Commission and City's Administrative Committee all voted to recommend approval. The Core Development Team will meet on Thursday.

ACTION: No Action.

10. Report: Annual Report to City Council – Schott

The Tree Commission will present their annual report to City Council on November 4, 2019. Schott asked for volunteers; Cronan offered to make the presentation. Filip will send him last year's Power Point and will work with him on this year's content. Schott asked for them to bring a final draft to the October meeting so the MTC can review and edit, if needed.

ACTION: No action.

Open Discussion:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Next meeting: October 1, 2019

NOTICE: Moscow City Council Commission meetings can be televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

Minutes Approved On

NOV 5 2019

Clerk/Deputy Signature