

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

David Schott
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**Tuesday
August 6, 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; Debbie Kadlec, Chair; David Rauk.
ABSENT: Lauren Goss; Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary.
STAFF Dwight Curtis, Parks and Recreation Director; Donna Howard; David Schott, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director; Gina Taruscio, City Council Liaison.
OTHER: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mark Heinlein (arrived at 5:20.)

1. Announcements

Chair Kadlec recognized Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis; he mentioned he is a self-professed tree guy and loves the MTC. He said that the future Harvest Park will be one specific example of the overall concept of an edible forest but Curtis realized there are already trees and shrubs in Moscow available for harvest. Last week on his lunch break he picked 2 ½ gallons of black chokecherries from the trees outside his office at the Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center (HIRC), made chokecherry syrup and shared bottles of it with the commissioners. The concept of the edible forest is everywhere in Moscow, Curtis said, and while Harvest Park will take years to develop there are many opportunities now for citizens to hunt, gather and enjoy. Kadlec appreciated the educational aspect of Curtis' project. Curtis added he was unfamiliar with serviceberries until this year's MTC Arbor Day seedling giveaway and now sees the shrubs everywhere. Curtis left the meeting at 5:12 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes from July 2, 2019 (ACTION ITEM) - Kadlec

ACTION: Minutes approved as presented.

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

3. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2019 Joint Meeting (ACTION ITEM) - Kadlec

ACTION: Minutes approved as presented.

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

4. Public Comment Period

Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public. Chair Kadlec recognized Tyler Flanders of 622 South Harrison St.; he recently moved to Moscow from California, is looking forward to raising his family here and wants to learn more about the MTC.

5. Consideration of Tree Commission Goals / Five Year Plan (ACTION ITEM) - Filip

The Tree Commission reviewed and discussed their goals for 2019 and beyond as organized by Filip. After discussing the goals and making changes, Schott offered to distribute a clean copy with the Commissioners via email.

ACTION: Approve goals for the Tree Commission.

Filip motioned to accept the goals as edited and Cronan seconded. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Kadlec, Rauk. Nays: None. Absent: Goss, Hamilton. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the 2019 Commission Survey Report (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec

The City of Moscow conducts a Commission survey every two years allowing the public to provide feedback. The Tree Commission discussed potential questions for the 2019 survey; these are due to City Administration by September 16, 2019. Filip and Kadlec offered to modify the 2017 questions, send them to Schott and he will compile a list for consideration at the September meeting.

ACTION: No action.

7. Consideration of the 2nd Annual Community Involvement Fair (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec

The MTC was invited to participate in an event on August 8, 2019 from 5 PM to 7:30 PM, organized by the Moscow Young Professionals and Chamber of Commerce. The event will provide an opportunity for community members to learn about local non-profit organizations and community causes as well as openings on city commissions. Rauk, Cronan and Filip volunteered to staff a table at the event.

ACTION: Approve logistics for the 2nd Annual Community Involvement Fair or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

Cronan motioned to approve participating in this event and Kadlec seconded. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Filip, Kadlec, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: Goss, Hamilton. Motion carried.

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

The Tree Commission discussed their next chance to share information with the public during the Farmers Market. Filip will create an online survey to assess who is available to volunteer; Schott will add it to the September meeting's agenda.

NO ACTION: To be finalized and approved at next meeting.

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

Rauk revisited his concerns about trees within the City that have been topped or pruned in a way that is described as lion's tailing. Quite often it was done by licensed contractors who should know this practice could have a detrimental effect on the tree's health and possibly create a dangerous situation. Rauk proposed sending a letter with the contractor's annual renewals about proper and improper pruning techniques as well as educating the public through a utility billing insert. He would also like the City add a CEU component for recertification as well as increasing the knowledge level for the certification exam. Schott said the City Code stipulates the contractor's certification process and would have to be amended to comply with Rauk's suggestions. Likewise, the City only maintains jurisdiction over right-of-way trees; trees on private property are not protected under current regulations and would again require revision of the code to do so. Filip asked if contractors could lose their license if they did something wrong; Schott replied only if he caught them doing it. After additional discussion on the topic, Schott offered to include it on the next meeting's agenda for further brainstorming and consideration.

ACTION: No Action.

10. Report: Harvest Park Status Report - Schott

Schott updated the MTC on the conceptual plan for Harvest Park and the Core Development Team's (CDT) progress. Any future decisions, including establishing a timeline, are pending approval from City Council of the preliminary design. The CDT won't be meeting in August but the last meeting was productive, including consideration of cover crop species and what items are available for purchase from seed. CDT member David Griffith formulated a list of plants that are edible, native, good cover crops and also included nurse plants – subordinate plants that can help others flourish. Deborah Berman offered

seeds from her nearby farm. Schott said there is a possibility of holding workshops on site this fall as well as testing the soil and planting cover crops in the spring of 2020 but emphasized it was dependent on Council's decision. Griffith observed there were some undesirable plants growing at the site and recommended organizing volunteer projects to pull poison hemlock plants. Schott anticipated the site would continue to be cultivated with wheat but transitioning to the food forest could begin as early as 2021. Kadlec requested testing the soil for carbon prior to planting the edible components; subsequent retests could establish if the organic content increases. She said this could even be part of a public workshop. Cronan is familiar with the soil testing process and said the cost could be prohibitive; the least expensive NPK tests are the most popular. The tests for organic materials and heavy metals can cost up to \$500 per core sample.

ACTION: No Action.

11. Report: Annual Report to City Council – Kadlec

The Tree Commission is scheduled to present their Annual Report to City Council on November 4, 2019. Filip presented the MTC's annual reports for the past two years and would like to see someone else volunteer for this year. Kadlec and Cronan volunteered to help prepare the PowerPoint; Schott will have this as a future agenda item.

ACTION: No action.

Open Discussion.

Adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Next meeting: September 3, 2019

Minutes Approved On


Clerk/Deputy Signature

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