MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Debbie Kadlec
Chair

David Schott
Staff Liaison

~Agenda~

https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission

Tuesday, February 4, 2020	**5:00 PM**	**Mayor's Conference Room** **206 E. 3rd St.**

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Introduction of Pamela Brunsfeld – Moscow Tree Commission Member**

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes (ACTION ITEM) - Kadlec**

   Staff will present minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

2. **Public Comment Period**

   Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action.

3. **Consideration of 2020 Arbor Day Venue (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec/Rauk**

   Arbor Day is on Friday, April 24, 2020. Discuss venue and agenda for the Arbor Day celebration.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: Discuss and approve Arbor Day venue and agenda or take other such action deemed appropriate.

REPORTS

1. **Report: Little Free Gardens – Abigail Dow**

   Abigail Dow, Urban and Edible Landscapes Educator with the City of Moscow will present an overview of the little free garden program.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report only.

2. **Report: Pruning Practices within the City of Moscow – Schott/Rauk**

   It has been observed trees within the City were recently topped or pruned in a way that is described as lion's tailing. The MTC reviewed this issue during their November, 2019 meeting. After a discussion with other municipalities, new information is available for consideration by the Tree Commission.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report only.

3. **Report: Carbon Cycle of Trees and their Benefits to the Community - Kadlec**

   Debbie Kadlec, Chair of the Tree Commission, was invited and has accepted a position as a member of the Sustainable Environment Commission sub committee to examine the potential climate changes on Moscow.

   PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report only.

OPEN DISCUSSION

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. **March 3, 2020**

ADJOURN

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MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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Minutes

https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission

Tuesday **January 7, 2020**	**5:00 PM**	**Mayors Conference Room** **206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.

PRESENT: Daniel Cronan; Ellis Eifert; Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary; Debbie Kadlec, Chair; Lauren King, Vice Chair; David Rauk.
ABSENT: None.
STAFF Donna Howard, Staff Support; Dave Schott, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Brandy Sullivan, City Council Liaison.

1. Announcements

Kadlec recognized Schott who introduced the new commissioner Ellis Eifert. He hails originally from Mississippi, completed his undergraduate degree at University of Idaho, his wife's family is here, he's been an attorney since 2013, he's fascinated with trees and wanted to get involved with local government. Everyone was introduced to Eifert.

Schott circulated a roster sheet, asked everyone to verify their contact information and update if needed.

Schott announced that the City of Moscow was approved for their Tree City USA application and will receive the Growth Award for 2019. When he submitted the application, which requires a minimum of ten points, this year's entry included seventeen points for tree-related activities and complimented the commission on having a very good year.

2. Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2019 (ACTION ITEM) - Kadlec

ACTION: Minutes with were approved as presented.

Rauk motioned and King seconded approval of the minutes. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Cronan, Hamilton, Kadlec, King, Rauk. Nays: None. Abstentions: Eifert. Absent: None. 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 2020 Arbor Day Venue (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec/Rauk

Kadlec opened a discussion regarding the venue and agenda for the April 24, 2020 celebration. The group discussed possible locations including Indian Hills, Lola Clyde, Itani and Morgan's Orchard Parks as well as the Highway 8 Underpass and the Moscow branch of the Latah Public Library. Schott requested Rauk bring his checklist to the next meeting as a useful tool for planning the event. King asked if something could be planted at Harvest Park; Schott suggested waiting until more was known about the park's design. Possible collaboration with other organizations like PCEI were also mentioned. Hamilton will talk to them about their possible participation in an event at Lola Clyde Park. Rauk inquired about doing a larger scale project, planting ten to fifteen trees; Schott currently has $300 budgeted for this year's event and suggested a project like that would need more planning. Kadlec asked for ideas to be emailed to Schott before the next meeting when a second discussion will follow.

ACTION: No action, discussion.

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5. Consideration of the Spring / Summer Parks and Recreation Brochure Classes (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

Schott requested final decisions on tree classes for the April 1 through July 31, 2020 Parks and Recreation Brochure. He asked if the MTC would like to include Clark J. Filip's July bike tour to observe local trees and Iris Mayes' class at Harvest Park where the public could help with sampling the soil at Harvest Park. He also requested an idea for a third class; after considering some options, Kadlec offered to teach a class on Urban Food Forest Useable Aspects. Rauk would like to see a future class designed to teach children about trees.

ACTION: Approve classes for inclusion in the upcoming brochure.

Cronan motioned and Hamilton seconded approving the three tree classes for the spring and summer brochure. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None Motion carried.

6. Pruning Practices within the City of Moscow (ACTION ITEM) – Schott/Rauk

Kadlec invited Rauk to discuss his concerns about unsafe practices by contractors pruning private trees. His desire to improve the level of professionalism among tree workers led him to consult other city officials and find out how they address the issue. According to Gerry Bates from the Idaho Department of Lands, 80% of the tree contractors follow proper pruning techniques when their staff includes an ISA certified arborist. By including this credential in the licensing, Rauk feels the practices would improve. Also recommended is using American National Standards Institute's (ANSI) standards in the documents, specifically document ANSI-A300 which governs tree care. Finally, Bates recommended submission of articles in local media about proper tree care. Then Rauk spoke to City Coeur d'Alene's Urban Forester Nick Goodwin who also recommended focusing on the ISA Certification. Part of their professional credential is signing a code of ethics. If the company is observed practicing improper techniques, Goodwin will contact the company with a kindly written letter in which he will tell them, if that type of work continues, he will report them to ISA regarding a breach of ethics. Their city requires tree workers to be ISA Arborists, complaints resulting in loss of certification could lead to a loss of income as they could no longer work in the area. Goodwin regularly checks Craigslist and other advertisements to ensure all companies advertising for tree work are properly licensed. Finally, Rauk talked to Matt Perkins from Boise's Community Forestry Department and his focus is on the department's general standards. It is a reference to the ISA Certified Arborists' Code of Ethics. If the tree service not performing the work as required, the city may terminate their license. They also require that each company employs at least one ISA Certified Arborist and follows ANSI Pruning Standards. Rauk summarized by suggesting the following actions: putting articles in the City's utility billing statements to educate the public; sending publications to Moscow's Licensed Contractors and Tree Workers to educate them on best management practices for pruning and the ANSI-A300 Standards. The costs associated with distributing these pamphlets could be included in the MTC's FY21 Budget request. A third idea Rauk would recommend is when the City's Streets Department holds their in-service training on the Right of Way Vegetation Program, he or another arborist could be there to discuss these issues with the contractors. Schott will include wording regarding these practices in the 2020 Contractor's License and Certified Tree Worker renewal applications. He already included purchasing brochures in the next budget request. Rauk will share more information with the commissioners via email before the next meeting for future discussions.

ACTION: No action, discussion.

7. Consideration of the FY21 Tree Commission Budget Requests (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

Kadlec opened the discussion about anticipated expenses for FY 21 and what the MTC would like to allocate for future project funding. Schott will need to submit this request to City Administration by mid-February. After discussing prior years' budgets and expenditures, the following was suggested:

- Arbor Day tree purchase ($500);

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- Arbor Day seedlings ($500);
- Arbor Day dues ($20);
- Harvest Park promotional materials ($250);
- Education, Outreach and Workshops Opportunities ($250);
- Farmers Market display banners development and purchase ($250);
- ANSI A300 Pruning Standards, Part 1 and BMP Pruning ($21.95 per set 25 sets) ($550).

Total: $2,320.00 for MTC's FY 2021 budget request.

ACTION: Approve FY21 budget request for inclusion in the upcoming budget.

Rauk motioned and King seconded the budget request as discussed. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

8. Report: Harvest Park – Schott

Schott provided an update on the Core Development Team's progress. There haven't been many recent meetings due to the holidays and other obligations. Schott will schedule one to two meetings per month once the spring school semester is underway and the team members know their availability. Cronan is designing smaller areas within the park called planting theme rooms. Schott incorporated a funding request for cover crops in his FY21 budget request and will follow up with proposal and authorization requests. King suggested giving her staff a year's notice for product requests. Cronan has a graduate student looking for a place to present a summary of his Master's proposal and asked if the MTC would be interested in seeing this student's designs for Harvest park. It would be a short presentation, 15 minutes, and allow the student to practice for his thesis defense. Kadlec offered to schedule this on the agenda for the April meeting.

ACTION: No action, report.

9. Report: Avista, Trees and Overhead Powerlines – Schott

Staff liaison, David Schott, recently met with Avista to discuss options for trees conflicting with overhead powerlines. Kadlec previously asked them about any programs they had to help homeowners with nuisance trees. Avista does not have a program per se but is willing to help a homeowner remove a public right-of-way tree that is interfering with power lines by paying to fell the tree. This leaves the cost of stump grinding, removing the rounds, etc. to the adjacent homeowner to complete. Moving forward, as Schott gets removal requests that fall into this category, he will contact Avista and see if they can assist. Schott isn't supportive of removing whole blocks of trees and replacing them with new trees, just for the sake of the utilities, especially in the Fort Russell area. Whenever possible he will advocate to spare trees and ask, for example, if the utilities could instead be relocated.

ACTION: No action, report.

10. Report: Carbon Cycle of Trees and their Benefits to the Community - Kadlec

Debbie Kadlec accepted an invitation to participate in the Sustainable Environment Commission's sub-committee on climate change. They invited members of the other City of Moscow commissions as well. The first meeting will be next week and they will meet twice monthly on Monday evenings. Kadlec will report back to the MTC as things progress.

ACTION: No action, report.

Open Discussion:

Rauk shared a newspaper article he found in the Lewiston Tribune about pruning trees. Rauk observed from the photograph included in the article as well as from driving by the site that the contractor over-pruned, lion tailed and otherwise was practicing unsafe maintenance.

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Sullivan mentioned that the City and the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) are planning some major downtown infrastructure improvements over the next few years, estimated to begin in 2022 or 2023, and believes the trees will be a large part it. The work will encompass improving curbs, gutters, sidewalks, street lighting and street furnishings for an approximately $5 million project. Hamilton and Rauk asked if the MTC could be kept in the loop regarding decisions affecting the downtown trees; Sullivan will mention their request to URA Executive Director Bill Belknap and see if there is a role for the MTC to pay in the planning phase. Schott has worked with the Pathways Commission for similar projects and has been able to bring design plans to their meetings and pass along their input to City Administration and offered to do the same for the MTC. Cronan asked if there could be a landscape architecture graduate student design studio. This would allow the students to work within the urban renewal design guidelines, road test some of their ideas and validate same with systematic checks. Sullivan doesn't yet know what the process will entail but will pass along these ideas. She appreciates how students have designed proposals for past projects and participated in open workshops like the Third St. Bridge.

Adjourned at 6:35.

Next meeting: February 4, 2020

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