

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

Minutes

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**Tuesday
February 4, 2020**

5:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

PRESENT:	Pamela Brunsfeld; Ellis Eifert; Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary; Debbie Kadlec, Chair; Lauren King, Vice Chair; David Rauk.
ABSENT:	Daniel Cronan
STAFF	Donna Howard, Staff Support; Dave Schott, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation; Brandy Sullivan, City Council Liaison.

1. Announcements

Kadlec welcomed the newest commissioner Pamela Brunsfeld, who retired as the director of the University of Idaho's Stillinger Herbarium as well as an instructor for 20 years. She currently is a beekeeper, likes to xeriscape and is a self-proclaimed plant and pollinator fanatic. The others introduced themselves to Brunsfeld.

Ellis Eifert arrived at 5:06 pm.

2. Report: Little Free Gardens – Abigail Dow

Abby (Abigail) Dow, City of Moscow's Urban and Edible Landscapes Educator, was invited to present an overview of the Little Free Garden program that she will begin locally this spring. Originally started in 2015/2016 in Fargo, North Dakota and Moorhead, Minnesota as an offshoot of Food of the North, it has since expanded throughout the US. The website www.littlefreegarden.com states their "goal is to foster communities committed to growing, sharing and cultivating food in small, raised-bed gardens designed to fit in residential spaces... the garden is planted and maintained by the garden owner but the food grown is intended to be harvested and shared with anyone who wants or needs it." Dow's focus is to grow connections between people, food and nature; cultivate community and food self-reliance; inspire community members to grow their own food; teach youth about gardening and eating natural foods; encourage stewardship and environmental awareness; and provide youth programming. Three companies have donated seeds: Snake River Seed Co-Op of Boise, ID; Botanical Interests of Colorado; High Mowing Seeds of Vermont. The planters will be located in the City Hall parking lot, the Moscow Public Library and in various locations on Main Street in downtown Moscow. Dow added that the Pritchard Art Gallery will have their youth program paint signs and stones to decorate their garden. Dow also asked if anyone knows of additional planting spaces to please contact her. There is a \$25 fee to register each garden and this includes a placard explaining the Little Free Garden, a booklet/poster of the program's guidelines, a how-to-build guide and stickers. Dow is currently seeking donations to build the planter boxes; after she has the needed supplies, they will be constructed in March or April during a public building day at the City's Parks Shop. Her goal is to build two to five boxes. She also plans to organize a community input day in February or March to gather information from local gardeners on best practices for growing in Moscow as Dow is new to the area. Once the program is going, she will oversee planting, watering and tending the gardens and arrange weekly gardening days and educational workshops. Her AmeriCorps service year ends in September and that necessitates arranging volunteers to assume her role to continue overseeing the program. She will attend local events to increase awareness and

interest; she then passed out her business cards and offered a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in participating. A discussion ensued regarding additional planting sites and troubleshooting potential obstacles to the program's success.

ACTION: No action, report.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 7, 2020 (ACTION ITEM) - Kadlec

Rauk noted there was a missing word in the January minutes. Howard will correct item 6. Pruning Practices, to read, "If the tree service is not performing..."

ACTION: Minutes approved with amendments.

Hamilton motioned and King seconded approving the corrected minutes. Acclamation vote. Ayes: Eifert, Hamilton, Kadlec, King, Rauk. Abstention: Brunsfeld. Nays: None. Absent: Cronan.

4. Public Comment Period

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

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

Rauk opened the discussion using his checklist to plan the Arbor Day event on Friday, April 24, 2020. The tree seedling bagging event will begin at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, April 21 at the UI Pitkin Nursery; all of the commissioners volunteered to assist with this hour-long task. Then the group discussed possible locations and which school groups could be invited to the event. Two possible sites were Lola Clyde Park for the planting and inviting the staff of PCEI and their nature school students or planting a tree at the 1912 Center and inviting the Moscow High School students. Schott will seek approval from City Administration regarding the event site. Brunsfeld volunteered to write the seedling care and information handouts; Rauk will provide her samples of what was given out at past events. After the location is approved by City Administration and the groups invited, Schott will select an appropriate tree and his staff will prepare the planting site. Schott will also request representation from the Idaho Department of Lands, bring the ceremonial shovel, send out a press release and submit a Proclamation for the Mayor to read at an April City Council meeting. Rauk already reserved 10 am to 3 pm on the Mayor's calendar to attend the event and will notify his staff about the final time and location. Hamilton volunteered to coordinate with PCEI if Lola Clyde is the chosen/approved location and will photograph the event. Rauk will begin writing up the program for the day of the event. Brunsfeld offered to design flyers for the MTC to give out at the event.

ACTIONS: Submit two locations for approval by City Administration and acceptance by the groups invited to participate in the ceremony.

Rauk motioned to plant a tree at Lola Clyde Park, inviting the PCEI staff, the students from the PCEI outdoor school and their teacher; Hamilton seconded. Rauk then motioned to choose the 1912 Building as an alternate tree planting site, inviting Moscow High School students, teachers and staff to participate; King seconded. Acclamation vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Absent: Cronan. Motion carried.

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

Kadlec invited Rauk to update the commission on his progress putting an end to unhealthy tree trimming practices as he's observed trees within the City that were topped or pruned in a way described as lion's tailing. Rauk is working on a flyer highlighting the importance of proper tree care. The insert will be included in the City's utility billings, will illustrate what not to do and include examples of good tree care practices. The flyer is intended to help educate the property owner so they know what to request and avoid when hiring a tree contractor. Rauk will forward it to Schott for approval before submitting it to Jen Piffner. Rauk asked Schott for an update on the Streets Department's meeting about their right-of-way vegetation compliance workshop; Schott is still

working with them on the details. Schott included in the 2020 Licensed Tree Contractors and Certified Workers renewal applications wording Rauk provided about proper techniques.

ACTION: No action, report.

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

MTC Chair Kadlec accepted an invitation to join the Sustainable Environment Commission's subcommittee on climate action. She attended one of their two meetings and the group is still in its infancy. They are working on an event for Earth Day; King suggested collaborating and coordinating with them on their event and the MTC's Arbor Day event. Kadlec will update the MTC as more information becomes available.

ACTION: No action, report.

Open Discussion:

Kadlec received an email from Cronan; since he couldn't attend tonight's meeting, he asked her to share updates on his assignments. Cronan and Iris Mayes are confirmed to teach a workshop on Tuesday, April 28, at Harvest Park. Cronan's graduate student is confirmed to present his design proposal for Harvest Park at the April 7th MTC meeting; the presentation is expected to last 20 to 25 minutes.

Schott announced that the MTC will be staffing the Farmers Market (FM) table on May 2nd and September 26th. Schott thanked the commissioners for getting that resolved in a timely manner. Hamilton will update the display board with Arbor Day photos and information, Rauk will save any leftover seedlings from the Arbor Day event to give away at the May 2nd FM.

Sullivan mentioned that at the last meeting the MTC discussed the City's Downtown Revitalization project. Cronan had offered to have his students do some plan designs but he and Sullivan realized the timing won't work out for that collaboration as the project is slated for Fall. Sullivan anticipates the project will involve the downtown street trees and expects multiple opportunities for the MTC to contribute ideas for the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07.

Next meeting: March 3, 2020

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


Clerk/Deputy Signature