

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

Minutes

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday
March 3, 2020**

5:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

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

1. Announcements. There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2020 (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec

Brunsfeld noted that the wording was inaccurate in Item 5. She requested that it be changed to reflect she “offered to design a flyer for the MTC to give out at the event.”

ACTION: Approve minutes with amendments.

King motioned and Brunsfeld seconded to accept the revised minutes. Acclamation vote. Ayes: Unanimous.

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

Rauk opened the discussion regarding planning for this year’s April 24th event, using his revised checklist. Rauk has the Mayor’s calendar reserved for that day. Sullivan volunteered to invite the City Council members. Rauk confirmed the seedling bagging event on April 21st, at 3 PM at the Pitkin Nursery and Schott added he is available to assist. Rauk asked King to confirm how many of each tree seedlings will be given away: 117 Buckthorn, 105 American Chestnut and 70 Limber pine. She also verified that the total price is within the Commission’s budget of \$500 for the seedlings. Brunsfeld shared the first draft of the flyers and invited the commissioners to write any comments on the printouts. A discussion followed regarding what details would be included in the flyers and solutions for formatting issues; Brunsfeld will circulate a revised digital copy. Schott will get the final version approved by City administration. Hamilton will include information from Brunsfeld’s flyer on the display boards and posters. Hamilton confirmed that Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute (PCEI) is on board to participate in the festivities. Unfortunately, their children’s program, Palouse Roots, will not be available to participate. Rauk and Hamilton will investigate additional options to invite area schools; they will notify Schott about who could be included and if an alternate site should be considered. Schott will choose an appropriate tree based on the planting site then shared an aerial view of Lola Clyde Park. Schott has \$300 budgeted to purchase the ceremonial tree. If there are additional monies available from the Tree Planting Dedication Fund, he will look into purchasing and planting more than one tree. An ideal scenario would involve planting a few trees near the playground to provide shade. Schott noted, however, he has to keep in mind any future improvements such as an all accessible pathway, picnic shelter or restrooms. Once the details are finalized and Schott has purchased the ceremonial tree he will let Hamilton know. She will include information about the chosen tree on her informative poster. Rauk added the park is located at 1040 N. Polk. St., near Rodeo Drive. In case of inclement weather, the

ceremony can be held in the PCEI pavilion. Schott will submit a press release for the event, have it posted on the City's Facebook page and has already extended an invitation to the new representative from Idaho Department of Lands (IDOL). Schott added that Michael Beaudoin, Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager from IDOL's Coeur d'Alene office, also wants to attend a future MTC meeting. Schott can also provide tables, chairs, podium, sound system and any other items PCEI might not have available. Rauk requested this to be on the April agenda to finalize the specific details.

ACTION: No action.

5. Consideration of 2021 Arbor Day Seedlings (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec/King

King asked for consideration of a different tree seedling for next year's event as the Black tupelo seeds are not available. After a discussion of possible options, the Sugar maple will be substituted.

ACTION: Approve alternate tree seedlings for Arbor Day 2021.

Rauk motioned and Eifert seconded to provide sugar maple seedlings for next year's giveaway. Acclamation vote. Ayes: Unanimous.

6. Report: Carbon Cycle of Trees and their Benefits to the Community – Kadlec / Cronan

Kadlec was not able to attend the last two Sustainable Environment Commission's subcommittee meetings on climate change. She knows they are planning an Earth Day event and they will meet twice a month. Cronan will attend their meetings as his schedule permits.

ACTION: No action, report.

7. Report: Tree Inquires from the Public – Kadlec / Schott

Kadlec was contacted on Facebook regarding a referral for a certified tree contractor or arborist in Moscow. As a member of the MTC she was concerned about implications with respect to endorsing a business and wanted to discuss how to respond to these questions. Schott replied that, as a member of the Commission, they are representing the City and cautioned against making a specific recommendation. He's been asked for a recommendation from the City's list and answered that he cannot make a recommendation for one company over another. He will tell people that licensed contractors listed on the City's website are required to provide specific insurance coverage, have completed minimum testing administered by the City or, in lieu of that, employ someone who completed testing to become a Certified Tree Worker. He also recommends to ask the contractor if they employ a Certified Arborist, and if they get a quote, did they get more than one quote. They also are required to perform tree work according to the City's Arboricultural Specifications and Standards. If a citizen asks for a consultant, Schott isn't aware of any in Moscow, and he has referred people to the ones working in Spokane. Another resource is the ISA website, where the public can search for an ISA Certified Arborist. That being said, as a private citizen, anyone can respond that they cannot make a recommendation but that they used a certain tree service and had a good result. In that case, the City is not being represented and individual experience is being passed on to the person requesting information. Schott reiterated that it cannot come as a recommendation from a member of the Tree Commission. In this recent situation, Kadlec had referred this person to Rauk who said he usually suggests people get at least three estimates for any job. Brunsfeld has, in the past, been asked to make recommendations if there's something wrong with a tree. As a member of the MTC does she need to be more careful doing that? Schott replied yes, if she were making a recommendation or rendering advice and something were to happen, as a representative of the MTC you are representing the City and this could cause an issue. If it were only coming as a personal opinion from Brunsfeld the botanist, neighbor, friend, etc. there wouldn't be a problem. In summary, Schott said that if you are approached as a representative of the City you cannot make a recommendation. If not, and if you are just rendering your personal opinion as a private citizen, a recommendation is fine. He cautioned that there is always the chance the lines could blur and he recommended clarifying in what capacity they are responding. Rauk suggested that the City's list of Licensed Contractors should differentiate between those who are equipped to do large tree pruning and removals from those who can only do small tree pruning and removals. The listing could save consumers some time as not all contractors possess the training and equipment required for working on large trees. Schott replied that the City's website currently listed them

as two groups. First is a group of licensed contractors with certified workers and then it listed those contractors only for planting and non-technical removals. Rauk appreciated that differentiation but thinks the listing could be further clarified by adding large tree versus small tree work, removals only, etc. Schott will work to clarify that as the list is updated.

ACTION: No action, report.

8. Report: Harvest Park – Kadlec / Schott

Schott said that the Core Development Team (CDT) experienced scheduling issues and has not met for a while but will get together in two weeks. Cronan's Landscape Architecture student Yi Sun will present his design for Harvest Park during the CDT's meeting on March 16th then to the MTC in April. The CDT will continue to work on the park's management plan but Schott said there will be some changes in the park's development timeline. The booster station is still slated to go in during 2021 but the rest of the infrastructure, pathways, structures, etc. will most likely not be funded until FY 2024 for Phase I and FY 2026 for Phase II. The extension is due to funding limitations but, in the interim, Schott does have an operating budget and plans to start small projects as funding allows. In the FY 2020 budget there is enough money available to start soil tests, install a water meter, plant cover crops and hire Idaho Department of Corrections vocational work crews to knock down weeds. If approved, Schott's FY 2021 budget request would pay for signs, power installation and some trees or shrubs with drip irrigation. His vision is to chip away at the small projects annually until the Capital Improvements monies are available. Kadlec added that she was approached by the local organization Food, Not Lawns, about potential involvement with Harvest Park and, specifically, what could community members do to participate in the nascent project. Schott said the Moscow Garden Club approached him with a similar request and he is keeping a list of organizations interested in working on this unique undertaking. Brunsfeld suggested adding the Idaho Native Plant Society to his list. Schott said there could be opportunities as early as this summer for local groups to get involved with projects at the site. Schott appreciated that the City's first priority is funding public safety and infrastructure maintenance and improvement. Cronan asked if the City could add Yi Sun's conceptual drawing to their website, to keep the community engaged until the major improvements can begin, and Schott will pursue that as an option.

ACTION: No action, report.

Open Discussion:

Rauk shared an article from Digger magazine regarding the healing powers of trees. Rauk appreciated that the article, published by the Oregon Association of Nurseries, was similar to and supported the theme of the MTC's 2019 Arbor Day event. He passed the magazine around for all to see the article.

Rauk asked if the new commissioners received the MTC informational binder; Howard said the information needs to be updated and is working with Schott on that project. She did give them copies of the Street Tree Selection Guide and the ISA "Trees are Good" Coloring Book.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 pm.

Next meeting: April 7, 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

AUG 4 2020

Clerk/Deputy Signature