

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
January 21, 2020

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/581/Agendas-and-Minutes>

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly; Steve McGeehan-Chair; Amber Ziegler; Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee); Kristin Haltinner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison, Manager-Environmental Services Department Maureen Laflin, City of Moscow Council Liaison; Jenifer Rossini; David Hall; Cassandra Goodmansen; Elizabeth Stevens, Human Rights Commission; Anne Remaley; David Hall; George Bedirian.

1. Approval of minutes from November 19, 2019-Steve McGeehan

Result:

Mover:

Second:

No approval of minutes from December 17, 2019. There was not a quorum therefore the minutes are not official.

2. Election of 2019 Chair and Vice-chair – Fred Pollard

ACTION: Discuss and elect the SEC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020.

*****Rescheduled for February 18th 2020 meeting. There was not a quorum*****

3. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Kelli Cooper, City of Moscow Sustainability Technician, will update the Commission on the City's sustainability activities.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide applicable feedback to staff.

Kyle Steele gave report. In October 2019, Nichole Baker and Kelli Cooper did a target mailing for Toilet and Wisescape rebates, instead of newsletters, which turned out successful. Many toilet rebates have been coming in and La Quinta changed out all their toilets, roughly 82. Earth Month activities and Mayor Earth Day Awards will be discussed next month. Tina Hilding, with the Climate Action Subcommittee, mentioned touching base with Kelli in regards to tying in a Climate Action Plan public forum with the Cities activities on April 22nd (Earth Day). Kyle wants to send out a press release in mid-March.

4. Moscow High School Subcommittee- Ilan Carter

Report on sustainability activities at Moscow High School including the Environmental Club and Soil Society.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate.

*****No report per Fred Pollard*****

5. Climate Action Working Group – Kristin Haltinner

The Sustainable Environment Commission has established a subcommittee to examine ways to improve Moscow's preparedness for climate change, explore opportunities for the city to mitigate climate change, and continued consideration of the RF 100 effort.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate.

Tina introduced Elizabeth Stevens as the new liaison from the Human Rights Commission. This subcommittee meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 5:30 P.M in the Mayor's Conference Room. There are some new people that have become involved: Tree Commission-Debbie Kadlec, Pathways-Jonathan Green, and Transportation Commission- Mary Dupree. Sierra Club was also invited. Jeff Hicke has been working to develop a vulnerability assessment. Jeff is planning to have a small summary for the April events. Tina stated that the Climate Action plan is hoping to be done by the end of 2020 because the other plan ended in 2020. Jeff is also helping with 3 other plans. Tina also expressed a desire for the Group to talk with council members, one on one, in regards to what the Group has been working on before April 2020; as well as delivering a complete presentation to City Council at some point. Kristin Haltinner's students will be doing projects in regards to the potential impacts of various measures taken to reduce climate change. These projects could be presented in April. The Group has also put together a list of all the things they could do to mitigate climate change. Next meeting will be about the April event, as well as clarification on categories for climate action plan.

6. Fracking Issues in Idaho – Shelley Brock (via Skype)

Shelley Brock of the Citizens Allied for Integrity and Accountability (CAIA) will discuss the status of fracking in Idaho including challenges to the process used by Idaho's Department of Lands to force landowners to lease their mineral rights to oil and gas companies.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate.

*****Rescheduled for February*****

7. The Palouse Area Citizens for Safe Electricity

The Palouse Area Citizens for Safe Electricity would like to speak briefly to the SEC about the proposed changes to regulating small cell/5G transmission facilities that the Moscow Planning Department is working on.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate.

5 G is coming, which is 5th generation of wireless. Cities are gearing up to re-write zoning regulations due to telecommunication companies wanting to set up antennas. Cities are also re-writing regulations in anticipation of applications to come in for installation of the antennas. Federal communications are saying you cannot deny telecoms in your community. Pullman, WA has drafted their zoning regulations already and has had a public meeting, which will continue February 26th. Last month at the Moscow Planning and Zoning meeting, they introduced what was coming and they are working on the revised city code. Part of Pullmans code states these transmitters cannot be put in public parks or monuments, next to schools or residential areas and there is a conditional use permit for certain zones you can obtain. Moscow has no restrictions to where a transmitter could be installed. There are many suggested public safety concerns as well: plants can die/be damaged, sensitive people could feel the radio waves, privacy, and hacking. David Hall recommended working along side the Planning and Zoning commission as they move forward with coding. David also made a mention that 5G will affect downtown businesses, and many will leave when 5G comes. The Palouse Environmental Sustainability Coalition and The Palouse Area Citizens for Safe Electricity are bringing DR. Martin Pall (WSU) for a presentation the first week in February. He has been studying the effects of 5G and he has many citations documented. On February 26th, University of Idaho Law Professor Richard Seaman will be addressing Moscow League of Women Voters on the legal aspect of 5G. Avista has been at City Parks preparing for 5G. George Bedirian read that all this radiation from 5G could disrupt the earth's magnetic field, which would have repercussions to living organism. George also mentioned the concern that with all the "SMART" electronics available they are providing a lot of data that is available for possible hackers. George talked about how many people know nothing or very little in regards to 5G. He went on to talk about what cities can do once the telecoms are allowed in. He stated telecoms can control the location, how many, and physical design of 5G equipment. Mill Valley in California was a good example of what a municipality can do to curb 5G transmitters from coming to their area. George went over several areas of the ordinance created by Mill Valley. (Handout available upon request)

8. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (Feb 18, 2020)

ADJOURN: 7:50 p.m.

Steve McGeehan, Chair *(or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)*

NOT OFFICIAL NO QUORUM