

MOSCOW PATHWAYS COMMISSION



Jonathan Gradin
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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Tuesday
July 10, 2018

5:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order 5:00 PM.

PRESENT: Erin Bacon; Tanya Denison; Margaret Dibble, Vice Chair; Jonathan Gradin, Chair.

ABSENT: Judy Brown, Secretary; Becky Chastain; Robert Heckendorn; Brandy Sullivan, City Council Liaison.

STAFF: Donna Howard, Staff Support; David Schott, Staff Liaison.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Heinlein, Parks and Recreation Commission Member

1. Announcements

There were none

2. Approval of minutes from June 12, 2018 - Gradin

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Denison
SECONDER:	Dibble
AYES:	Bacon, Denison, Dibble, Gradin
ABSENT:	Brown, Chastain, Heckendorn

3. Public Comment

Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public. Chair Gradin recognized Mark Heinlein from the Parks and Recreation Commission and asked if he had anything to discuss at this point; Heinlein did not. There were no public comments.

4. Consideration of Annual Bike Tour Venue – Gradin

The Moscow Pathways Commission will hold their Annual Bike tour in lieu of the September 11th Pathways Commission meeting. Gradin opened the discussion on the venue and route for the tour. Denison mention that the NRS parking lot near Blaine and the Troy Highway will be closed for construction and will not be available as a possible starting or ending location. After discussing possible options, it was decided that the tour will begin at the Intermodal Transportation Center on the UI Campus, travel east along the Paradise Path toward Alturas Business Park and end with refreshments at Blackbird Station. The approximately three mile round trip route would allow time for the group to stop and check out projects along the way, compare them to previous tours' observations and be a smaller challenge for less accomplished or younger riders. Gradin suggested postponing the start of the tour to 5:15 to avoid participants driving to the tour from incurring parking

violations in the UI Sweet Avenue parking lot. Denison voiced concern about the pathway being open along the Identity on Main construction project; Schott will be kept apprised of any additional requests for closure.

ACTION: Approve the Annual Bike Tour route as discussed; Schott will get a written route and map circulated to the members for confirmation.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Dibble
SECONDER:	Bacon
AYES:	Bacon, Denison, Dibble, Gradin
ABSENT:	Brown, Chastain, Heckendorn

5. Development of a Public Outreach Event at Berman Creekside Park - Chastain

The Pathways Commission wanted to develop an annual event at Berman Creekside Park to promote Pathways Commission goals and their mission. Chastain requested a meeting with Schott regarding this item after he emailed out the July meeting's agenda; she was unable to attend tonight's meeting and wanted to recommend that this event be cancelled. Chastain suggested to Schott that it might be better to organize the event privately. Schott felt that next year would be better timing to have this event due to the many construction projects in the vicinity of Berman Park. There was a discussion about the Highway 8 Underpass and Blackbird Station projects. The general consensus was to postpone the event until a later date and reevaluate its potential.

ACTION: No action, discussion item.

6. Consideration of Farmers Market Assignments for July 28th and September 8th – Gradin

The Moscow Pathways Commission will attend the Farmers Market on July 28th and September 8th, 2018. Dibble and Denison volunteered to staff the table on July 28th and Gradin will postpone assigning duties for the September date until the August meeting.

ACTION: No action.

7. Discussion: Electric Bikes and Scooters - Schott

Schott relayed information to the MPC members regarding the pending launch of the Spin dockless bike and scooter share program on the University of Idaho campus, primarily to discuss existing municipal code regarding electronic bikes and scooters on pathways. Les MacDonald, the City's Public Works Director, did a presentation on Spin's partnership with UI at the July 9, 2018 Public Works/Finance Committee meeting. MacDonald relayed that the University would like the City's participation in the program and Schott wanted to get feedback from the MPC members. The bike sharing will begin in August 2018 and the scooter sharing is to follow in early 2019. Between now and January 2019 the City will work on the parameters of the scooter usage program with respect to current municipal code. In addition to the MPC, MacDonald is including the City's Transportation Commission and Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis in the discussions. A conversation ensued regarding the logistics of the program, how fast the scooters can travel and where City Code currently allows electronic bikes and scooters to ride. Schott shared copies of City Ordinance Title 11 – Traffic, Chapter 2, Section 2-4, that states, "It is hereby declared to be unlawful for any person to operate or permit to be present a motorized vehicle upon any restricted bike path or pedestrian walkway identified pursuant to this Chapter." He also shared Resolution 2007-03 that included a map of the restricted bike paths and pedestrian walkways referenced in that ordinance. According to these documents, only "a motorized wheelchair or similar conveyance operated by a disabled person" or where a person with permission by a permit, written permission from the City or property owner are exempt from these restrictions. Schott's understanding of this is that only a person operating a motorized wheelchair can ride on the bike paths and pedestrian walkways and expects the City's Attorney to be involved in the consideration making an allowance for the motorized scooters. Bacon's

understanding of the University's intent is to allow students to travel across campus without the use of cars, thus allowing the campus to ameliorate the congested parking situation and become a greener campus.

City Council Liaison Brandi Sullivan arrived at 5:20 PM.

After continued discussion on the safety of the scooters, setting limits as to what motors could be allowed on the restricted paths and walkways based on pedal assist, throttle or fully electronic modes of transportation, the general concern was over the speed that scooters might attain on the paths and the safety of the pedestrians and non-motorized bicycle users. Bacon recommended posting speed limit signs, including a clarification of what vehicles may be used on the trails; she felt that any vehicle with a throttle should be expressly forbidden from the restricted paths. Dibble commented that the availability of powered bikes could increase trail use which is a good thing. Gradin added that this could increase city-to-city connections for non-automobile users as there aren't a lot of walkers traveling from Moscow to Pullman or Troy. Dibble observed that the general population is unaware as to where the Bill Chipman or Latah Trail end and the Paradise Path begins, so if there are restrictions for scooters only within Moscow City limits additional signage would be needed. Bacon asked if there was currently a speed limit on the Paradise Path; Gradin replied he was only aware of a recommended maximum speed on the Latah Trail. Bacon asked if the scooters would be restricted for use only on the UI Campus; Schott explained that if the City were to partner with UI on this program it would allow them to travel off campus, within City limits. Denison thought this could open a dialogue for consumers and lawmakers to set proactive guidelines for certain powered vehicles on the trails in the future; consumers could make choices based on the limits set by City Council. Heinlein mentioned that a powered bike or scooter would be beneficial for someone working in an office setting to allow them to travel quicker than walking, avoid parking hassles, reduce their carbon footprint, and get fresh air and moderate exercise without becoming overly sweaty. After discussing different types of powered bicycles, mopeds, boards, scooters and the difficulty of enforcing any restrictions or limits, Schott said he will make this an agenda item for the August meeting. He invited the commissioners to research the pros and cons of this program and bring information to the next meeting for further discussion.

ACTION: No action, discussion item.

Open Discussion – All

Schott updated the group on the potential Highway 95 Underpass: Community Development Director Bill Belknap mentioned in the City's Budget Workshop that the project has been deemed feasible by the consultant. Schott said the design should be 30% complete by August and plans on bringing more information to the next MPC meeting for discussion.

Sullivan suggested inviting someone from Spin Bike Share to the September bike tour.

Adjourned at 5:55

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 14, 2018

Minutes Approved On


AUG 14 2018
Clerk/Deputy Signature

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