

MOSCOW FARMERS MARKET COMMISSION



Jamie Hill
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

Amanda Argona
Staff Liaison

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/362/Farmers-MarketCommission>

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

4:15 P.M.

Council Chambers
206 E 3rd St.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Jamie Hill, Jenny Ford, Kelly Kingsland, Mackenzie Lawrence, Kerry Morsek, Stu Scott

ABSENT: Renee Love, Colette DePhelps, Ryan Lazo

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Amanda Argona, Staff Liaison; Anne Zabala, Council Liaison; Kelly Jennings, Programs Coordinator

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

Chair Hill called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. after technical issues were resolved.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Mission of the Moscow Farmers Market

The Moscow Farmers Market celebrates life on the Palouse by providing the community with the opportunity to buy and sell locally farmed and/or created agricultural products (e.g., crops, meat, cheese, wine, etc.), distinctive handmade goods, artisan pieces, and original recipe cuisine. This venue is meant to encourage and support sustainable economic, social and environmental practices.

The Mission statement was read aloud by Ford.

2. Approval of Farmers Market Commission July 7, 2020 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Ford moved that the minutes from July 7, 2020, be approved as read; Kingsland seconded. The motion passed.

3. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Farmers Market Commission. Please state your name and address for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

Kyran Mutart of Moscow, Idaho, was in attendance to learn more about the Farmers Market Commission. He introduced himself and did not have any comments.

4. Craft and Food Jury for Current Vendors – Argona (ACTION ITEM)

Several current vendors have inquired about the addition of new products outside their normal scope of work. All Craft and Food Juries for prospective vendors have been cancelled, and the Moscow Farmers Market is not accepting new vendors in any categories for the 2020 season. The current Craft and Food Jury template is designed and geared towards prospective vendors and requires formatting for current vendors.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Allow for a modified Craft and Food Jury for current vendors that promotes appropriate safety precautions, or require current vendors to jury new items in 2021, or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Argona shared that the vendors who are interested in adding products items are either trying to make the most of the shortened Moscow Farmers Market season or are not attending as many farmers markets and making the Moscow Farmers Market a priority. Argona shared her screen to show visuals of the proposed items from some of the vendors.

Hill invited discussion. Kingsland recalled that there was a prior decision about no new products being introduced this year. Argona clarified that the prior decision was in regards to new, prospective vendors and their products and that this was in regards to current vendors adding new products. Hill stated that she has seen vendors that offer sewn products add masks this year, which makes sense when it comes to scope of product offerings. Hill felt that the vendors requesting to add products are applicable to the jury process and felt that the Craft and Food Jury subcommittee members can handle this process without further input from the Commission, but looks forward to their recommendations. Kingsland proposed a “virtual jury” with the adapted score card for current vendors and made a motion. Ford seconded. Scott abstained as he is a vendor that would be participating in this virtual jury. He suggested that a criterium for the adapted score card be whether the item falls within an existing vendor category and to have items be juried based on the rules regarding that item. The motion passed.

5. New Producer Site Visits – Argona (ACTION ITEM)

Out of the nine prospective agricultural vendors (not including recent, mid-season inquiries), the Moscow Farmers Market has added four new produce vendors.

- Smoot's Flavor Farm - Pullman, WA
- Ten Blue Bird Acres - Kooskia, ID
- Viola Gardens - Viola, ID
- Wing Over Farm - Moscow, ID

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Determine a site visit schedule for this year, or include new vendors in bi-annual site visit rotations, or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Argona requested the Commission to indicate a preference for how to handle site visits for these four vendors due to COVID-19. Argona stated she believed social distancing could be maintained with precautions taken ahead of time, such as Commission members driving their own vehicles, with reimbursement for mileage. She noted that additional health and safety requests from vendors would be honored, such as masks and physical distancing. Alternatives to an in-person site visit may be touring virtually or submission of video or photos by the vendor. Kingsland mentioned that Affinity Farm recently participated in a virtual tour and cautioned against it.

Lawrence asked if Argona had spoken with the vendors in question. Argona replied that she has not reached out to them yet, pending discussion with the Commission. Discussion ensued about how the vendors have already participated or attended in Motor-In Moscow Farmers Market and downtown

Moscow Farmers Market, the ideal procedure to conduct site visits prior to attendance, and visiting these vendors in 2021.

Kingsland noted that she knows the owner and is familiar with Wing Over Farm. She asked if the purpose of the site visit is to confirm whether the farming operation was actually producing the items they bring to market, and if a fellow farmer is sufficient to act as confirmation in lieu of a site visit. Argona explained that in addition to that, other items are recorded and observed such as food safety issues and that, in general, information gained from site visits provided valuable background when there were inquiries about a particular vendor from customers. Hill said the visits deserve the efforts the vendors are due. Scott suggested that local resources be used and contacted as one way to verify the operations in the interim. Morsek suggested that the four vendors fill out the site visit form and submit it to the Commission. Kingsland offered her perspective as a farmer noting that this has been a difficult year already and that these vendors are currently in peak harvest season. She moved to delay 2020 site visits of new vendors due to COVID-19 restrictions and complete them in the winter/spring of 2021. Morsek seconded. The motion passed. Lawrence asked for staff to inform these four vendors about this motion and vote. Argona said she will include the Commission's decision regarding virtual food and craft jury and site visits in the weekly vendor email.

Ford left the meeting at 4:45.

REPORTS

1. Motor-In Moscow Farmers Market Staff report – Dow

Dow was unable to attend the meeting. The Motor-In Moscow Farmers Market report will be presented at a separate meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Proposed Items for Future Agendas

Commission members may email Amanda Argona (aargona@ci.moscow.id.us) to propose future agenda items for discussion.

2. Amended Public Health Emergency Order 20-03 has been extended to October 6 per Resolution 2020-17.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- 1. The Commission's annual citizen report to City Council is scheduled for Tues., Sept. 8, 2020.**
- 2. Farmers Market Commission next regular meeting is Tues., Sept. 1, 2020, at 4 p.m. at Moscow City Hall, 206 E. Third St., Moscow, Idaho, in the Council Chambers.**

ADJOURN

Kingsland moved to adjourn; Morsek seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

