

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Deborah Kadlec
Commission Chair

~ **APPROVED Minutes** ~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday
October 6, 2020**

5:00 PM

Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85679264259?pwd=VGZDdmZlNFhma1Y5bDVmdGhaUzZDdz09>

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM

PRESENT: Ellis Eifert; Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Deborah Kadlec, Chair; Jeanne Leffingwell

ABSENT: Pamela Brunsfeld, Secretary; Daniel Cronan; David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard, Staff Support; Dave Schott, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation;
Brandy Sullivan, City Council Liaison

1. Announcements

Sullivan will attend the Arbor Day event in place of Mayor Lambert who cannot make it.

2. Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2020 (ACTION ITEM) – Kadlec

ACTION: Minutes approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Hamilton
SECONDER:	Leffingwell
AYES:	Eifert, Hamilton, Kadlec, Leffingwell
ABSENT:	Brunsfeld, Cronan, Rauk

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 the 2022 Arbor Day Seedling Selections (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

Don Regan, with the Franklin H. Pitkin Nursery, is in the process of starting the seedlings for the 2022 giveaway. In a prior meeting, the MTC selected Sauer magnolia, western larch, and black tupelo but the nursery is having issues with the black tupelo seeds germinating. Regan instead offered black cherry seedlings as they are growing well this year. The group discussed the attributes of black cherry trees and giving away those seedlings for 2020. The second item discussed was Regan's offer to bag the seedlings for the MTC. In the past, the commission members met at the nursery and bagged the seedlings. Kadlec said she enjoyed doing this in the past and suggested they continue to do it in the future. After discussing how they liked doing this activity as a group, all agreed to continue packaging the seedlings. Due to the changing circumstances associated with COVID-19, the group will make a final decision closer to Arbor Day 2021.

ACTION: Substitute black cherry seedlings for the black tupelo seedlings.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Hamilton
SECONDER:	Leffingwell
AYES:	Eifert, Hamilton, Kadlec, Leffingwell
ABSENT:	Brunsfeld, Cronan, Rauk

5. Consideration of the 2020 Annual Report to City Council (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

The MTC is scheduled to present their Annual Report to City Council on November 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. This year, the commissions have the option to present in person or via Zoom. The MTC discussed the contents of the Annual Report and which way to make their presentation. Schott volunteered to begin this year's PowerPoint and share it via email with the commissioners for approval. Items for use in the presentation included the progress at Harvest Park, replacing the downtown trees, Arbor Day, Tree City USA/Growth Award, utility flyer insert and the MTC's Parks and Recreation tree-related classes.

ACTION: No action; the PowerPoint will be finalized via email communication.

6. Update: 2020 Arbor Day – Schott

The Tree Commission will celebrate their rescheduled Arbor Day on Friday, October 9th at 9:00 a.m. in Harvest Park. The original April event was postponed due to COVID-19 and the fall event will include safety protocols as well as a limited number of attendees. An apple guild will be planted by City staff, Tree Commission members and members of the Core Development Team (CDT) for Harvest Park. Schott and his staff will begin preparing the 20' x 15' planting area and will have holes pre-dug and tools at the Park. City Council Member Sullivan is stepping in for the Mayor who is unavailable. This year the celebration is not open to the public to reduce the opportunity of COVID-19 exposure. Mayor Lambert read the Arbor Day proclamation at the October 5th City Council meeting. Leffingwell asked if the press had been notified; Schott said no, as it is a closed event, but the City's Digital Media Specialist, David Harlan, will be there to photograph the festivities and submit photos to the Daily News. Hamilton asked what plants comprised the apple guild. Schott purchased two keystone species: a Dolgo crabapple tree from Fiddler's Ridge Nursery and a bare root Akane apple tree from Burnt Ridge Nursery. The support species include western serviceberry, shrubby penstemon, garlic chives, nodding onion and prairie smoke purchased from various locations. Debbie Kadlec will bring wild thyme to plant as well. Schott was unable to locate nitrogen fixing plants this time of year but thinks this is a good demonstration planting. Kadlec asked how the plants will be watered; Schott will have staff visit the site with the water truck and water as needed. He will otherwise rely on the usual precipitation the region receives fall through spring. Schott purchased a water meter and will also have his staff install a drip irrigation system before the start of the hot weather. Hamilton asked how to access the site; Schott explained where the entrance is located and will email directions and a site map to the MTC members. Schott requested that all attendees are mindful of the COVID-19 protocols such as distancing and wearing masks. Eifert, Kadlec, Leffingwell and Sullivan all plan on attending. Schott has not heard back from the CDT who can attend. Ultimately Tree City USA has waived the Arbor Day requirement this year but Schott is encouraged that this event will go well. Schott said everyone should bring their own gloves, hats and dress in layers but the weather forecast looks promising.

ACTION: No action, update.

Open Discussion

Leffingwell asked if anyone sent a thank you note to Yi Sun for the Harvest Park presentation; Schott will follow up with Cronan.

Leffingwell thanked Sullivan for putting up with the recent City Council difficulties. Hamilton added that she hoped the councilmembers feel appreciated. Sullivan enjoyed tonight's meeting, talking about trees, instead of the recent controversial Council meeting topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 538 PM.

Next meeting: November 3, 2020

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