

MOSCOW PATHWAYS COMMISSION



Jonathan Gradin
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

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Tuesday
December 11, 2018

5:00 PM

Mayor's Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM.

PRESENT: Erin Bacon; Judy Brown, Secretary; Margaret Dibble; Jonathan Gradin, Chair; Robert Heckendorn

ABSENT: Becky Chastain

STAFF: Donna Howard, Staff; David Schott, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director; Brandy Sullivan, Council Liaison.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Heinlein

1. Announcements

Schott announced that there were treats and a card from Mayor Lambert for the Commission Members with his regards for a happy holiday season. All appreciated the chocolates, popcorn and sentiment.

2. Approval of minutes from November 15, 2018 – Gradin

ACTION: Minutes approved as presented.

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

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 and asked if he had any public comments. Heinlein replied that he did not but was interested in the agenda item about the electric bikes and scooters on Moscow's pathways.

4. Consideration of Electric Bikes and Scooters on Pathways - Schott

Gradin recapped the November meeting's discourse and re-opened the discussion about people riding electric bikes and scooters on Moscow's pathways. Schott added that yesterday the City's Public Works Finance (PWF) Committee considered a request from the University of Idaho to enter into a bike share program with Gotcha Mobility. The City would pay half of the program's annual \$45,000 cost with the University paying the other half. Schott was unable to touch base with Tyler Palmer, Moscow's Deputy Director of Operations, to find out how the meeting went; Sullivan said that the PWF committee voted to recommend moving forward with the agreement. Heckendorn questioned participating in a program requiring the City to pay a fee when the previously considered programs didn't involve payment; Sullivan replied those other contracts didn't materialize and this was the best bike share program available to the City and UI. She emphasized that it is only a one-year agreement, being used as a pilot program per

Rebecca Couch, Director of the University's Parking and Transportation Services. After a year the test program will be reexamined. The MPC expressed concern regarding throttle assisted bikes and scooters, the higher speeds the powered bikes may achieve, their capability of carrying more passenger and cargo weight resulting in an increased braking distance requirement as well as how the assisted bikes could increase ridership and improve the health of members of the community as well as benefit the environment. Schott said since City code currently prohibits motorized vehicles on pathways he would like to get a recommendation from the MPC for City Council regarding the e-bikes. There was a discussion about the bike share program's benefits to the community; how assisted bikes could allow older riders as well as parents towing children to more easily use the pathways; the legal definition of a motorized vehicle; where scooters fit into the equation; what modes of transportation could be allowed on the paths; how regulations would be enforced; how Boise, ID and Pullman, WA have approached this subject; the possibility of instituting and enforceability of speed limits; installing signs and setting up speed zones to warn path users that congested areas are ahead; how to protect pedestrians using the path; how to preserve the pathway for pedestrians as well as wheels users; how liability issues would be handled; how the paths were better suited to less experienced riders and how more experienced riders could safely use the roads. Gradin recognized Heinlein who shared his experience with an e-bike. Heinlein recently purchased a bicycle for his daughter and in the bike shop's parking lot was a rider test driving a pedal assisted e-bike. He said the man was able to quickly accelerate to an unsafe rate of speed for the location; he viewed it as a potential safety issue. The group discussed Boise's Code, Section 10-14-02: Traffic Laws Apply to Persons Riding Bicycles, E-Bikes and E-Scooters, shared by Sullivan in November and they appreciated the definitions and specific wording used in that document. Bacon offered use of her Safe Routes to School resources, such as radar guns and volunteers, to conduct research on current trail use and activities before the MPC makes a recommendation. Brown would like speed studies completed and asked to include questions relating to the topic of pedestrian use and biker interactions in the next City Survey. Part of Schott's duty is to protect the public and wonders the best way to do that but he recognizes that the overarching question now is, does the MPC feel that these should be allowed on the pathway? Brown believes the pathway system was intended from the beginning to be multimodal and that the MPC should protect that. Bacon agreed, stating that she views the pathways more as a linear park system than a mode of connectivity. She feels the MPC should consider options for preserving the paths for all users while still accommodating commuters. Heckendorn related his positive experiences with renting an e-bike in Rhode Island but acquiesced there were drawbacks to the program, such as limitations to the battery life, abandoned bikes and scooters littering the neighborhoods. He recommended looking at Providence, RI's program for more information. Schott offered to write up a recommendation from tonight's discussion, loosely based on Boise's approach, including what modes of transportation could be allowed and what signage might be appropriate, and circulate it among the MPC members for further consideration before making a recommendation to City Council.

ACTION: Continue working toward a recommendation.

5. Consideration of 2019 Goals - Schott

Gradin deferred the discussion of 2019 goals until the next meeting due to the previous agenda item monopolizing this meeting's allotted time. He asked the MPC members to read over the 2018 Goals and bring items for consideration to the next meeting.

ACTION: No action; to be considered at the January meeting.

6. 2019 Officer Elections – Gradin

Gradin said that the current MPC officers, Secretary Brown, Vice Chair Dibble and Chair Gradin, were open for renewal or another MPC member could be nominated for the positions. Heckendorn motioned to retain the current appointments into 2019.

ACTION: Renew officers' appointments for 2019.

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

7. Open Discussion – All

Adjourned at 6:07

Next meeting: January 8, 2019

Minutes Approved On

 JAN - 8 2019
Clerk/Deputy Signature