

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~
AMENDED

David Schott
Staff Liaison

tree@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7098

<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission>

Tuesday
October 5, 2021

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from September 7, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

2. 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 Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

3. Display Banners Review (ACTION ITEM) – Eifert / Schott

In the FY2021 budget, the Tree Commission has \$250 for the development and purchase of display banners for the Farmer's Market and other Tree Commission events. The Tree Commission will review the draft content proof from the sign company.

ACTION: Approve the display banners proof prior to fabrication; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

4. Consideration of Supplemental Water for Mature Trees (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Tree Commission will be discussing supplemental water for mature trees during the dry months of the year, typically July and August. This item will review the public messaging for supplemental water for future media outlets.

ACTION: Approve public messaging for supplemental water for mature trees in future media efforts or take other such action deemed appropriate.

5. Consideration of the 2021 Annual Report to City Council (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Each year the Tree Commission presents the Annual Report to City Council. This year the Annual Report will be presented on November 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The Tree Commission will discuss content of the Annual Report.

ACTION: Approve Annual Report to City Council or take other such action deemed appropriate.

6. Consideration of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

The Heritage Tree Ad Hoc Committee has developed forms and a program guide using a sample tree. The MTC will review the forms and program guide.

ACTION: Recommend approval of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program or take other such action deemed appropriate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: November 2, 2021

ADJOURN

NOTICE: Moscow City Council Commission meetings can be televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/557/Tree-Commission>

Tuesday
September 7, 2021

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld, Secretary; Daniel Cronan (Virtual – joined at 5:02 PM); Ellis Eifert, Chair; MaryJo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Zena Hartung (arrived at 5:02 pm); Jeanne Leffingwell (Virtual); David Rauk (Virtual).

STAFF: Donna Howard (Virtual); David Schott.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from August 3, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

ACTION: Approve minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or take other such actions deemed appropriate.

Hamilton moved, Jeanne Leffingwell seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Acclamation Vote:

Ayes: Brunsfeld, Eifert, Hamilton, Leffingwell (4). Nays: None. Abstentions: Rauk (1). Motion carried.

Cronan joined the meeting virtually at 5:02 pm and Hartung joined in person at 5:03 pm.

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

There were none.

3. Supplemental Water for Mature Trees – David Schott

The Tree Commission will be discussing supplemental water for mature trees during the dry months of the year, typically July and August. This discussion will focus on gathering ideas from the Tree Commission on the approach and content of public messaging.

ACTION: No action, discussion.

Schott wanted to have a recommendation available for a simple way homeowners could check and see if their mature tree needs watering and establish a recommendation for how much to water. By sticking a screwdriver into the dirt around the root zone, laypersons can tell if the tree needs to be watered. If the soil is hard packed and the screwdriver won't go in easily, it needs watering. If it comes out moist, the tree does not need watering. If citizens are conserving water by allowing their lawn to go brown during a drought, they should consider supplemental water for their trees, but the commissioners did not agree on an amount or frequency at this meeting. Brunsfeld added that proper mulching at the base of the tree can also help protect it. A discussion ensued on proper mulching: add mulch to a depth of approximately 2-inches to 4-inches; leave an open area, free of mulch, two inches around the base of the tree; mounding the mulch up to look like a cone or volcano, higher near the base and gradually lower away from the base. Also important is selecting the correct tree for the planting location, keeping an eye on trees for wilting or dropping leaves before fall and evergreens turning red or dropping needles. Hartung suggested paring down the wording as much as possible and moving the phrase, "water established trees once or twice monthly" closer to the top of the article rather than as an afterthought near the end. Also suggested, condensing it down further to bullet points and including diagrams. Schott will make edits as suggested and bring a draft document to the next meeting.

4. 2021 Annual Report to City Council – Ellis Eifert

Each year the Tree Commission presents the Annual Report to City Council. This year the Annual Report will be presented on November 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The Tree Commission will discuss content for inclusion in the annual report. Staff will bring a draft report to the Tree Commission's regular meeting on October 5, 2021 for consideration and approval by the Tree Commission.

ACTION: No action, discussion.

Eifert invited Schott to share last year's presentation. It included the MTC's mission statement, commission structure, duties, members, activities, the Tree City USA and Growth Awards, utility inserts, future projects followed by inviting the City Council members to ask any questions or offer any comments. Schott then asked for ideas of what to include in this year's presentation. Ideas included sharing information with the public via the City's Utility inserts, addressing the impact of this year's drought on area trees, MTC classes offered in the past year, the workshop at Harvest Park and an update on its development, this year's Arbor Day event, Farmers Market participation, the nascent Heritage Tree program, updated goals, and status of Tree City USA and Growth Awards. Schott asked for photos taken at any events over the past year to be emailed to him. Schott will work on the draft to be reviewed at the October meeting.

5. Report: Harvest Park – Schott

Schott will make a progress report on Harvest Park.

ACTION: No action, report.

Parks staff planted cover crops this summer, including buckwheat, chicory, clover, radish, small burnett; they mowed the grasses and weeds; soon they will mulch around the trees planted this year. Schott is hoping the Idaho fescue can take hold on the hillsides and crowd out the Canada thistle. The Pixie crunch and Dolgo crabapple trees planted this spring are fruiting. There will be one more big push this fall planting more cover crops, purchased from Great Basin and Green Cover Seed.

6. Report: Moscow Heritage Tree Program – Schott

Schott will make a progress report on the ad hoc committee developing a Moscow Heritage Tree Program.

ACTION: No action, report.

Schott will use Hamilton's Gingko tree for a mock submission to the program. Once the ad hoc committee is satisfied with the program's framework Schott will bring it to the MTC to review and approve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Dutch Elm disease was detected in Ghormley Park, resulting in the loss of trees. Parks staff are also treating the remaining elms to prevent more infections.

Hartung asked about fertilizing the grass on City properties; Schott answered that they do use fertilizer. He added that the City is working on a water reduction program in some of the parks, allowing the grass to yellow but not allowing it to die, reducing the water enough to just keep the grass alive.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: October 5, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.