

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~ Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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Tuesday
July 6, 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; MaryJo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell; David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Anne Zabala.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from May 4, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Hamilton

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Rauk moved to accept the minutes as presented. Hartung seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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. There were none.

3. Display Banners Review (ACTION ITEM) – 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 to be included on the display banners.

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

The commissioners looked at the rough draft and discussed making changes to the photos and copy. Cronan suggested adding a QR code to allow people to snap and easily visit the MTC's website. Howard will make changes as suggested.

Hartung motioned to review updated product at the August meeting. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the Fall / Early Winter Parks and Recreation Brochure Classes (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

Submittals for tree classes and workshops are due the first part of July for the fall / early winter Parks and Recreation Brochure. This brochure will cover September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

ACTION: Discuss and approve classes and workshops for inclusion in the upcoming fall and early winter brochure or take other such action deemed appropriate.

The commissioners and Schott discussed topics as follows: fall tree pruning; what's wrong with my tree; David Benscoter's lost apple class; repeating Iris Mayes' tree class on principals of design (Schott will contact her); Leffingwell and Brunsfeld's tree art class (would be more suited as a spring

or summer class); Tim Steury's apple tasting class (Hamilton will contact him); fall tree planting class; class on local trees; xeriscaping or Wisescaping[®] other than surrounding trees with rocks; Brunsfeld and Cronan could teach a landscaping class similar to the one offered in the past with David Griffith; Clark J. Filip's mountain biking tree tour (Rauk will contact him). Schott asked the commissioners to submit class ideas with the who, what, when, where details by July 20th.

Leffingwell moved to go forward with the classes as discussed. Cronan seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Report: Harvest Park – Schott

Schott will make a progress report on the Core Development Team activities to include status on the management plan for Harvest Park.

ACTION: No action, report.

Schott has been working with CDT to sketch out the management of the nascent park. The CDT approved the management statement and guiding principles; Schott shared them as a PowerPoint. Some usage guidelines were discussed such as harvest limits; first come/first served; requesting gleaners only take what they need for their personal use; requesting able bodied citizens reserve easier access plants and low-hanging fruit for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and children; reserving the right to modify the policy as needed. Hamilton suggested adding that Parks and Recreation staff can close areas of the park to gleaning as needed. The CDT also recommended a policy stating that dogs would only be allowed as long as they are kept on leash and the owners clean up after their pets; only service animals will be allowed off the pathways. Future topics for consideration include pesticide and herbicide use and providing habitats for pollinators in the park. Schott is currently working on the Bee City USA proposal and will coordinate that with the Harvest Park developments. Schott said the 42 plants from the spring workshop are stressed with the recent hot, dry weather but Parks staff are watering them and working hard to ensure most survive. Cronan suggested having a page on the City's website as well as a kiosk at the park updating the public on ripe fruits, classes in the park, etc. Zabala asked who is on the CDT; Schott replied Hartung, Deborah Berman from Rural Roots, form MTC Member/Chair Clark J. Filip and Parks and Recreation Commissioner Mark Heinlein.

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 said the ad hoc committee agreed upon Moscow Heritage Tree Program as the official name; they have been looking to comparable programs (Coeur d'Alene and Spokane) to build the framework and criteria for Moscow's Heritage Tree catalog. Schott shared the publication from CDA's program. Their previous two meetings kicked off the program and set up a working model. The program will be comprised of 25 private and public trees. The program will be primarily online to allow changes as needed but copies may be printed at the HIRC per citizen's request. The ad hoc committee, made up of Brunsfeld, Hamilton and Hartung, is working on the nomination form, criteria for inclusion (age, size, uniqueness), how to decide which trees qualify and the program's goals. After the ad hoc committee has a proposal for the framework, it will be brought to the MTC. Once approved by the MTC, it will then be forwarded to City Council for their consideration and eventual approval before implementation. Rauk asked about any trees that were included on the initial program and if they would be included in the renewed catalog; there was a discussion about the program that started around 1999 and if there were plaques and a list of trees. Schott is familiar with two bulletins from 1999 and 2000, highlighting heritage trees in Moscow, but he wasn't sure if it was ever adopted by City Council as an official program. Rauk is concerned that homeowners from the original program may feel left out if not included in the renewed program. Schott will research about the

original program and added that the trees should be nominated by someone from the public rather than an MTC member to avoid the perception of participation being a requirement from the City. He said this isn't a concern, however, if the MTC member has a prior relationship with the homeowner. Every nomination will require the homeowner's signature on all paperwork, agreeing to participate in the program and abide by the requirements. Schott concluded by saying the next ad hoc commission meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Rauk reminded the group that the MTC will be represented at Farmers Market this Saturday. He started a draft presentation on tree pruning for the tri-fold display, using similar information as was in the recent utility newsletter insert. A discussion followed on the technical challenges of printing the display's panels and who could help with the final print. Schott offered use of the HIRC printer for up to 11" x 17", color ink printed pages.

Schott mentioned that the MTC's flyer insert for the City's April billing statements was well received and asked for ideas about the next topic. One suggestion was providing mature trees additional water during hot, dry weather.

Rauk mentioned that the July 2021 cover story for National Geographic was on how trees help cool neighborhoods and how higher socio-economic areas were more likely to have these cooling tree canopies than their lower income counterparts. Cronan added there was a similar article he read about the tree equity tool, the gentrification of certain neighborhoods and the impact of urban forest inequity on metropolitan areas. Rauk also cited an article in the September 2019 issue of Time magazine about climate change. It mentioned what to do in order to save the earth by 2050 and one key factor was planting and taking care of trees. Rauk then said the June 8, 2021 issue of the Moscow-Pullman Daily News mentioned that Moscow homeowners and businesses will be paying a monthly fee to help offset the cost of the City's Federally mandated stormwater management program. Rauk suggested talking to Deputy City Supervisor Tyler Palmer about allowing homeowners to plant trees to help offset this cost, since trees can mitigate stormwater runoff. A discussion on collecting stormwater ensued. Cronan said there are programs that allow connecting stormwater retention devices to direct the water to where it can filter through and help with remediation. He volunteered to talk to Palmer with Rauk; Cronan suggested asking graduate students to build a data set projecting how programs like these could reduce stormwater runoff. Brunsfeld observed how many homeowners refrain from providing trees with supplemental watering during hot, dry weather due to the water usage fees but healthy trees are needed to assist with stormwater runoff. Zabala would like to see a tree planting rebate program like the City's Wisescape program. Hartung expressed concern about trees being planted in the right-of-way that are surrounded by rocks; she would prefer to see native plants and properly applied mulch.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: August 3, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM

Minutes Approved On
AUG - 3 2021
Dana Anne Hanel
Clerk/Deputy Signature