

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Heritage Tree Ad Hoc Committee
Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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

**Tuesday
August 18, 2021**

4:00 PM

**Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld; MaryJo Hamilton.
STAFF: David Schott.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Hamilton

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Brunsfeld moved, Hamilton seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

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

There were none.

3. Review Goals and Specific Criteria for Inclusion of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program (ACTION ITEM) – All

ACTION: Approve the goals and specific criteria for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

Schott shared his drafts of the goals as discussed at the last meeting. They were revised as follows:

GOAL #1: *Create a Heritage Tree Program to inspire and educate our community about our urban forest.*

GOAL #2: *Celebrate the benefits of mature trees by highlighting Moscow's Heritage Trees.*

GOAL #3: *Connect people to the natural beauty of trees as they grow and mature.*

GOAL #4: *Showcase examples and varieties of trees that grow well in our local conditions to promote planting of the next generation of Heritage Trees.*

GOAL #5: *Uplift and celebrate the role trees play in the urban environment.*

Schott asked if the MTC needed more specifics for the determining criteria; such as definitions of size, age, health, aesthetics. Brunsfeld added since each species is different, having a specific requirement would apply to one tree but not to another. The group decided to revisit this in a future meeting.

Hamilton moved, Brunsfeld seconded to approve the goals as amended. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Schott next shared his drafts of the description of and the criteria for inclusion in the program as discussed at the last meeting. They were revised as follows:

The City of Moscow has been recognized as a Tree City USA since 1994. This national honor is through the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of the importance of an urban tree canopy.

The Moscow Tree Commission is a seven-member citizen group with the mission, or purpose, to plan, establish and help conduct a comprehensive community forestry program for the City of Moscow. By ensuring safe, healthy trees, the community forestry program will enhance the quality of life for all that live in, work in, and visit the City of Moscow. The Moscow Tree Commission members are:

Ellis Eifert, Chair

Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair

David Rauk

Pamela Brunsfeld

Daniel Cronan

Zena Hartung

Jeanne Leffingwell

INSERT SPECIAL THANKS TO THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

Mary Jo Hamilton

Pamela Brunsfeld

Zena Hartung

Moscow is justly proud of its beautiful tree-lined streets, particularly in older historic neighborhoods, and works to create the same quality of urban forest in new areas of the city as they develop. To highlight our city's investment in trees, the Moscow Tree Commission has created the Moscow Heritage Tree Program to inspire and educate our community about our urban forest.

A Heritage Tree is one that is notable for its large size, age, health or form, or is uncommon in Moscow. It may also be a tree with an interesting story or connection to Moscow's history. To be eligible, trees must be sufficiently visible from the public right of way. The public must be respectful of the private property owner's personal privacy and enjoy the tree from the public right of way. Owners of trees included in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program have signed a Property Owner Agreement Form.

For inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program, please submit a Moscow Heritage Tree Program Nomination Form along with the Moscow Heritage Tree Program Property Owner Agreement Form to the City of Moscow Community Forestry Administrator at tree@ci.moscow.id.us or mail to City of Moscow, Attn: Community Forestry Administrator, PO Box 9203, Moscow, ID 83843. Once received, the City of Moscow Staff Liaison to the Moscow Tree Commission will prepare the nomination and present it to the Moscow Tree Commission for their consideration and approval or denial during a regular Moscow Tree Commission meeting.

Moscow Heritage Trees listed in this updated online guide will remain in perpetuity until the tree is removed with consultation of the City of Moscow Community Forestry Administrator or a change in ownership of the property. In this case, it is the affirmative duty of the private property owner(s) to notify any subsequent property owner(s) that they have opted to participate in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program and request the property owner(s) to notify the City of any

change in ownership. If the new property owner(s) wish to continue the participation, they will be required to sign a new Moscow Heritage Tree Program Property Owner Agreement Form.

Once designated as a Moscow Heritage Tree(s), the tree(s) will be featured in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program Guide, which includes a map of the tree location, a photograph of the tree, and a description describing why it is a Moscow Heritage Tree. The tree will be listed in an on-line version of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program Guide. The property owner will also receive a Certificate of Recognition. The Moscow Heritage Tree designation does not give the public permission to access private property without permission of the property owner.

Hamilton moved, Brunsfeld seconded to approve the program criteria and inclusion requirements as amended. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

4. Review of Moscow Heritage Tree Program Documentation (ACTION ITEM) – Schott

The ad hoc committee will review documentation of Moscow Heritage Tree Program.

ACTION: Approve the documentation of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

After discussing the draft documents from the previous meeting, Schott proposed creating a set of test run documents. Hamilton volunteered to submit her Ginkgo tree for this purpose. Schott will have Howard draft a certificate of recognition for Heritage Trees, Hamilton will apply for her tree to be considered as a Heritage Tree and Schott will bring all items to the next meeting for consideration. Schott also questioned if a permit should be required for removing a Heritage Tree once designated; Brunsfeld and Hamilton agreed this seemed unnecessary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Hamilton mentioned that with Spokane's Heritage Tree program, the City provides the owner of a listed tree with a professional arborist's assessment on the health of the tree and recommendations for maintaining the tree. She wondered if this would be something Moscow could do as well; Schott replied it was a great benefit but currently the City doesn't have trained staff to provide such a service. He will see if there is anyone interested in volunteering to assist with something like this. Brunsfeld liked the idea as well.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: September 15, 2021; 4:00 P.M.; Mayors Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Minutes Approved On

SEP 15 2021

Dennis Howard
Clerk/Deputy Signature