

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~ Minutes~

David Schott
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Tuesday
August 3, 2021

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

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

PRESENT: Pamela Brunfeld, Secretary; Ellis Eifert, Chair (arrived at 5:02 pm); MaryJo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott, Anne Zabala

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from July 6, 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 noted two errors in the minutes. Howard corrected MPC to MTC (item 3) and changed a sentence in item 5 to read, "only service animals will be allowed *off* the pathways."

Brunfeld moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Leffingwell seconded the motion. Roll Call

Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Eifert arrived at 5:02 pm.

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

There were none.

3. Sustainable Environmental Commission Climate Action Subcommittee Discussion – Tina Hilding / Al Poplawsky / Jeff Hicke (all virtual)

The Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) is a subcommittee of the Sustainable Environment Commission (SEC). Through the past couple of years, the group developed a climate impacts assessment that outlines how Moscow will be affected by climate change. The group has been looking at how Moscow will respond in terms of adaptation and mitigation to the challenge of climate change. The subcommittee is gathering input from other commissions including the Tree Commission.

ACTION: No action, discussion.

Hilding is the Vice Chair of the SEC; they formed the CAWG to get the city to commit to reaching a goal of 100% renewable energy and to get local government involved. City Council has been amenable to the SEC's input and the City of Moscow reached its 2020 climate goal to reduce emissions by 20%. UI Geography and Geological Sciences Professor Dr. Jeff Hicke presented the Climate Change Impacts Assessment for Moscow Idaho. The impact on the region of increased temperatures and less precipitation will be costly with respect to reduced agricultural production, increased energy usage and a negative influence on the quality of life. The SEC CAWG wants to

educate citizens on how to mitigate climate change for the benefit of all and is asking all of the City's Commissions for input on how to do so. There will be a City Council and SEC Workshop on September 27th to address climate concerns. Hilding shared the Burlington VT Climate Action Plan and discussed its eight mitigation themes. The SEC would like Moscow to adopt a similar program with community involvement and asking City staff for help prioritizing ideas and implementing changes. This could also involve financial incentives for citizens, education/advocacy, evaluating infrastructure and regulation changes. Boise's City of Trees challenge included funding from the Arbor Day Foundation to plant one tree for every household in the City; their ultimate goal was to plant 100,000 trees which reduced negative impacts on the environment. Burlington VT created a green roof policy and incentive program. Winchester, MA implemented a green infrastructure flood control technique. Hilding opened the discussion for questions, ideas and comments. A discussion followed on how the MTC could positively affect climate change by protecting the City's urban tree canopy, caring for street trees, planting hardy, drought tolerant trees, educating younger and older citizens on tree care and planting, how trees could assist with reducing stormwater runoff, watering established trees during the recent drought, the downtown tree replacement plan, improving tree wells, planting more pollinator friendly trees, watering lawns less. Eifert asked Schott about the street tree planting program for new developments; Schott answered it is the currently the developer's responsibility to ensure the correct trees are planted in the right-of-way (ROW) of new homes. Eifert then asked who cared for the ROW trees; Schott said it is the adjacent homeowner's responsibility. Hicke asked if there was a way to count how many trees are dying from this year's drought; Schott replied the City does not have a way to assess that information. Hicke proposed an outreach program, a collaboration between the MTC and the SEC CAWG to produce fact sheets on tree care and benefits.

4. 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 to be included on the display banners.

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

The MTC commissioners looked at the final drafts for the display banners. Hamilton moved and Leffingwell seconded going forward with purchasing the display banners. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. July 10, 2021 Farmer's Market Report – Rauk

The Tree Commission had a table at the July 10, 2021 Farmer's Market. Commission members will report on the day's events.

ACTION: No action, report.

Rauk was not at this meeting and none of the other commissioners were able to attend Farmers Market. Brunsfeld talked to Rauk and he said it was slow, probably because of the smoky air. Hamilton observed the display board looked really good, said Rauk did a great job.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Hartung re-opened a discussion about the SEC CAWG presentation with respect to new developments in Moscow. She voiced concern over the lack of trees in some neighborhoods and the widespread use of rocks in the ROW. She also asked about tree planting in Milton Arthur Park because it is currently an open field of grass. Schott focuses on planting trees in parks as much as possible, using a wide variety of different species as much as they are available, as recommended by the MTC's Street Tree Planting

Guide. In neighborhoods with leftover Tree Planting Dedication Funds he uses that to purchase trees for the parks, like in the Indian Hills subdivision. Milton Arthur is only turf now since the development plan is not yet finalized. Leffingwell asked about a local neighborhood with few trees planted in the ROW; Schott worked with many of the homeowners but had great difficulty convincing more of them to plant street trees.

Brunsfeld reminded the group about the MTC/Parks and Recreation class on October 18, 2021. Brunsfeld will talk about native, drought tolerant species and Cronan will explain how to landscape with them.

Hamilton was not able to get in touch with Tim Steury for an upcoming class. Likewise, Schott was unable to coordinate with Iris Mayes but they will both continue to reach out to them for classes next spring and summer.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: September 7, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM

Minutes Approved On
SEP -7 2021

Diana Hanzel
Clerk/Deputy Signature