

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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

Tuesday
October 5, 2021

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm.

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld, Secretary (virtual); Ellis Eifert, Chair; Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell (virtual).

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Anne Zabala (virtual, joined at 5:36 pm).

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.

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

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

There were none.

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.

Schott explained that the previously approved banner proofs were not accepted by the graphics printing company due to formatting issues. Significant changes were made, requiring approval from the commissioners. Schott shared copies of the new proofs and the group discussed the revisions. The gray background was preferred over white, borders were preferred to be placed around the photos and the bottom photo of the church steeple needed to be lightened.

Hamilton moved to print the new versions with the aforementioned changes. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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.

Schott shared his draft write-up he compiled from previous discussions and input from the commissioners. His vision is to have this ready to be shared with the public as needed, either on social media or in the utility insert. The only change requested was to enlarge the photos but the overall consensus was that the document was ready for sharing.

Leffingwell moved, Hartung seconded to accept the supplemental write up. Acclamation Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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. Eifert invited Schott to go through the presentation; Schott used the same template from previous years' and asked for input. Hartung asked if the MTC has ever heard appeals regarding licenses or tree removals. Schott answered, not during his tenure. Brunsfeld commented on the background graphics, really likes the look; Schott credited them to former MTC member, Nils Peterson.

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

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.

Schott went over the documents and accepted input from the commissioners as follows: Property Owner Agreement: change wording to read as, "Property Owner agrees to the following"; Section H. ... "allow City staff or designee ~~with~~ permission to photograph..."; change "tree" to "tree(s)" in case more than one is nominated.

Anne Zabala joined at 5:36 pm.

Tree Program Guide: Hartung asked for clarification on, "INSERT SIGNED RESOLUTION OR POINT TO". Schott explained that once City Council finalizes the program, he will add a summary about it and a link where to find the ordinance.

Hartung moved to approve the documents subject to the discussed edits. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Hartung and Zabala both attended the Moscow City Council Climate Action/Greenhouse Gas Emissions Workshop on September 27, 2021. Hartung remarked on the consistent discussion of the role trees play in carbon sequestration and the need for trees in the urban environment to mitigate climate change. Zabala added, also during the workshop, it was mentioned how it would be beneficial to have a paid arborist/City employee for monitoring tree health, especially in new developments. Zabala asked the MTC if they knew which trees are best for carbon sequestration; no one was aware if one tree was better than another but the topic will be considered for future discussion. Hamilton expressed concern over the rising popularity of using rocks and weed barrier cloth instead of grass, trees and shrubs in landscaping. While replacing turf lawns has its merits, the benefits of trees and shrubs shouldn't be ignored. She was

concerned that the ordinance requiring street trees installed in the right-of-way was oppositional to the City's water conservation movement. She felt that the MTC should raise awareness of the proper way to meet both needs. Hartung voiced concern over landscape rock creating hotter environments, requiring additional cooling expense. Schott added that this summer the City reduced watering the lawns in some parks, following the natural cycle of goldening turf, where it goes dormant but doesn't die. They specifically chose areas without mature trees and he fielded questions from the public on how to conserve water while maintaining trees and shrubs. The discussion then went to the best species of trees to plant in harsh environments. Brunsfeld and Schott will look at the Street Tree planting guide and she offered to work on a list of drought tolerant trees.

Brunsfeld apologized for cancelling the landscaping class but she is concerned about the breakthrough COVID-19 infections in the area.

Leffingwell asked how much information is on our web page; Howard is working on updating it.

Hartung left at 5:59

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: November 2, 2021.

The MTC's annual report to City Council is November 1, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes Approved On
NOV -2 2021
Dana Howard
Clerk/Deputy Signature