

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
November 2, 2021

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm

PRESENT: Dan Cronan (virtual); Ellis Eifert, Chair; Mary Jo Hamilton, Vice Chair; Jeanne Leffingwell (virtual).

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Anne Zabala (virtual).

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from October 5, 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, Leffingwell 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. Discussion of Tree Species Best Suited for Carbon Sequestration – All

The Tree Commission will have a general discussion of tree species and attributes of trees best suited for carbon sequestration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No actions, discussion.

After the Moscow City Council Climate Action/Greenhouse Gas Emissions Workshop on September 27, 2021, the question was posed if any specific tree species was better suited for carbon sequestration over another. After searching the internet, Schott found a few common themes: mostly fast-growing trees were better carbon sinks but their tendency toward weaker structure made them less desirable; slow growing trees can effectively remove carbon from the air, especially when they are middle aged. The larger trees didn't remove as much carbon when they are younger and became less effective as they reached the end of their lifespan. He also learned that willows may not be well suited for this purpose. The discussion then covered different tree species that could be recommended to Moscow's citizens for carbon sequestration. When recommending trees, the MTC will consider adding each species' carbon sequestration value as well as other desirable features like pollinator friendly, drought tolerant and the rest of the criteria listed in the Street Tree Planting Guide. Some trees mentioned were blue spruce, Teddy Bear magnolia, grand fir, western larch, ponderosa pine, some maples and mulberries. While not all of these would be suited to right-of-way planting, Schott will keep in mind to include an icon for carbon sequestration to the next revision of the Street Tree Planting Guide as well as a native species icon. Schott then mentioned that the 2022 Arbor Day giveaway tree seedling species are saucer magnolia, western larch and black cherry. When the MTC considers ordering the species for the 2023 Arbor Day seedling giveaway, they may include each seedling's carbon sequestration factor in their decision. It may also be included in the seedling's description.

4. Report: 2021 Annual Report to City Council – Ellis Eifert

The Tree Commission presented the Annual Report to City Council on November 1, 2021. The Tree Commission will discuss any feedback from City Council.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Both Zabala and Schott praised Eifert's presentation. Zabala added there was a question during the Council meeting, after Eifert's departure, asking if there will be a grand opening ceremony for Harvest Park. Schott responded that the park sign is in place and there have been some trees, shrubs and cover crops planted, but the City was waiting until more improvements are completed before holding a grand opening.

5. Discussion of Proposed Tree Planting Program – David Schott

The Tree Commission will have a kick off, scoping discussion of what a tree planting program might look like.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, discussion.

Schott opened the discussion by praising the MTC on completing many of their project goals and suggested they consider a tree planting program as their next activity. He asked those present to consider how this would work, including donations, recognition of the trees' provenance and locations for donated trees, among other ideas. The group brainstormed on this concept and will consider voting on this as a future endeavor at a subsequent meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Schott will present the Heritage Tree Program to Moscow's Administrative Committee on November 9th and City Council on November 16th for their approval.

Zabala asked how to support funding a full-time Arborist for the City; Schott suggested having Eifert write a letter from the MTC. He will include this as an agenda item for the next MTC meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: December 7, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 pm

Minutes Approved On
FEB - 1 2022
Debra H. H. H.
Clerk/Deputy Signature