

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
February 1, 2022

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld (virtual); Ellis Eifert, Chair; Jeanne Leffingwell; David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Gina Taruscio

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from November 2, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) - Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Leffingwell moved, Brunsfeld seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Brunsfeld, Eifert, Leffingwell. Nays: None. Abstention: Rauk. Motion carried.

2. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Heritage Tree Program Ad Hoc Committee Minutes from October 27, 2021 (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

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

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

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

There were none.

4. Consideration of the FY2023 Annual Tree Commission Budget (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

Each year the Tree Commission discusses and approves their annual budget for inclusion in the City budget request. The Tree Commission will review the FY2022 budget and discuss the FY2023 budget request.

ACTION: Approve the FY2023 budget request; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Eifert opened a discussion of potential expenses the MTC would incur for FY2023, including the downtown tree replacement program. The resulting budget was proposed:

- Arbor Day tree purchase (\$750)
- Arbor Day seedlings (\$500)
- Arbor Day dues (\$20)
- Arbor Day refreshments \$100
- Education, Outreach and Workshop Opportunities (\$250)
- Harvest Park promotional materials (\$250)
- Downtown Tree Replacement Plan education and outreach materials (\$250)
- Heritage Tree Program development, education, and outreach materials (\$250)

Total requested for FY 2023: \$2,300

Leffingwell moved and Brunsfeld seconded to approve the budget request as discussed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of a Letter of Support for a City Arborist Position (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

City staff will be preparing a FY2023 budget request for a City Arborist position. Previous discussions with the Tree Commission indicated a desire to draft a letter of support. The letter of support must come from the Moscow Tree Commission Chair as the voice for the Tree Commission. Commission will discuss content of the letter of support to be drafted by staff and signed by the Tree Commission Chair.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Provide content for a letter of support for the FY2023 City Arborist budget request; or take such other action deemed appropriate.

After considering this action item of drafting a letter for support from the MTC for the City Arborist full-time position, Schott asked permission to revise this as follows: The petition for a full-time employee position is more of a staff request item than a commission support solicitation. With that being the case, Schott feels it would be better suited to have the MTC submit a letter to City Administration reinforcing the importance of Moscow's urban forest, which will ultimately support Schott's request for a dedicated, full-time employee to care for this valuable resource. Schott will work with MTC Chair Eifert, Leffingwell and Brunsfeld to draft the letter, focusing on the importance of preserving the urban forest, the role it plays in carbon sequestration as well as other climate issues and its role in the beautification of Moscow's streets. Having a full-time arborist would allow for updating the City's tree inventory as well as researching suitable tree species for future plantings, managing the street tree planting program in new developments, managing the aging Fort Russell trees, preserving and improving the City's tree canopy, and providing advice to the public on planting and caring for trees. Taruscio suggested mentioning the economic benefits of trees and how the arborist's salary could be offset by saving citizens money by managing and conserving this valuable resource.

Leffingwell moved to incorporate what was discussed into a letter to City Council regarding the many benefits of trees in Moscow. Rauk seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of the Spring / Summer Parks and Recreation Brochure Classes (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

Submittals for tree classes and workshops are due March 11, 2022 for the spring / summer Parks and Recreation Brochure. This brochure will cover May through August of 2022.

ACTION: Discuss and approve classes and workshops for inclusion in the upcoming Parks and Recreation Brochure; or take other such action deemed appropriate.

Schott said that there are two classes already planned, one with Iris Mayes about weed control and another with Brunsfeld and Leffingwell that is an arts class for children, using trees as the theme. Schott suggested also running the pruning class, which has been well attended in the past, and Brunsfeld volunteered to teach a native plant landscaping class with Daniel Cronan.

Brunsfeld moved to approve submitting those 4 classes for the brochure. Leffingwell seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Consideration of the 2022 Arbor Day Celebration (ACTION ITEM) – David Rauk / David Schott

The Tree Commission will discuss potential venues and themes for the 2022 Arbor Day celebration. Arbor Day typically falls on the last Friday of April each year, this year being April 29, 2022.

ACTION: Discuss and approve the Arbor Day celebration venue and theme; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

Schott opened the discussion on where to hold this year's event. Possible sites considered included Milton Arthur Park, Heron's Hideout, and Triangle Park (formerly known as East Gate Park). One

possible concern is holding the event near enough to a school to allow children to participate and attend. Rauk will contact Moscow High School teacher Lee Anne Eareckson to request her Environmental Club to attend; Eifert will ask the Logos School if their kindergarten class can attend; Howard will reach out to the Adventure Club to see if they are available.

No action; the MTC will discuss details further and finalize at a future meeting.

8. Consideration of the 2023 Arbor Day Seedling Order (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Arbor Day seedling selections for 2022 are: western larch (55), redosier dogwood (55), and bur oak (55). The Pitkin Forest Nursery requires ample lead time for seedling orders. The Commission will discuss the 2023 seedling selections for Arbor Day next year.

ACTION: Approve the Arbor Day seedling selections for 2023; or take such actions deemed appropriate.

Schott recently talked to the Pitkin staff and shared the list of available to stock for the 2023 giveaway seedlings. The group discussed the benefits of each available species.

Rauk moved to approve Schott ordering black cherry, saucer magnolia and Frasier fir seedlings for the 2023 Arbor Day celebration. Brunsfeld seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Consideration of the 2022 Tree Commission Officers (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Each year the Tree Commission elects a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for each calendar year. The Tree Commission will elect members of the Tree Commission for these positions for 2022.

ACTION: Elect the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary positions.

Brunsfeld moved to renew Eifert as Chair. Eifert accepted the nomination. Leffingwell seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Eifert moved to nominate Rauk as Vice Chair. Rauk accepted the nomination. Leffingwell seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Since the current Secretary, Hamilton, was not in attendance, Leffingwell nominated Brunsfeld for commission secretary. Brunsfeld accepted the nomination. Eifert seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

1. Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, Legacy of Leaves Award.

Schott attended the Idaho Horticulture Expo in Boise last week and accepted the Legacy of Leaves award on behalf of the City of Moscow; this award recognized Idaho's Best Arbor Day Celebration of 2021. Moscow was nominated for the award by the Idaho Department of Lands. According to the INLA, "this annual award recognizes the community who organizes the best Arbor Day celebration, utilizing the \$300 Arbor Day Grant they receive from the INLA. Criteria used to determine the winner of the award are: (1) the dollar amount leveraged with the grant funds, (2) uniqueness of the Arbor Day celebration, and (3) support of local volunteers. The award is named the "Legacy of Leaves" to recognize the contribution that trees make to the communities in which they are planted." Schott will present the award at a City Council meeting in February.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: March 1, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Minutes Approved On
MAR - 1 2022
Donna Anne Howard
Clerk/Deputy Signature