MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION

Clark J. Filip
Commission Chair

David Schott
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~Minutes~

Thursday **January 4, 2018**	**5:00 PM**	**Mayors Conference Room** **206 E 3rd Street**

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

PRESENT: Amanda Argona; Clark J. Filip, Chair; David Griffith; Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary; David Rauk, Vice Chair.

STAFF: Donna Howard, Staff Support; David Schott, Staff Liaison, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Gina Taruscio, City Council Liaison.

1. **Announcements** – Filip welcomed Gina Taruscio, City Council liaison, and made introductions. He also explained the commission's current active projects and future goals.

2. **Approval of Minutes from December 5, 2017**

   Correct the following errors - change "agenda" to "minutes"; changed word "along" to "among" in item 5. Finalize MTC Input on City Comprehensive Plan; Argona was assigned to work on tree class research, not Hamilton.

   ACTION: The minutes were approved with corrections.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Hamilton
SECONDER:	Argona
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Hamilton
ABSTAINED:	Griffith, Rauk

3. **Public Comment Period**

   Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public. There were none.

4. **Tree Seedling Selection for Arbor Day 2018 - Rauk**

   Filip invited Don Regan, of the University of Idaho Pitkin Forest Nursery, to address the MTC regarding purchasing seedlings. Regan outlined which seedlings were available and their prices. After discussing the availabilities it was agreed to purchase 150 concolor firs, 26 kousa dogwoods and 127 European beech trees. Regan requested an email from the MTC for the 2019 selections so he can begin growing those seedlings; Filip will contact him by February 1st after emailing the MTC members for their choices. Rauk will email the Schumacher list. There was a discussion about educating the public that these seedlings are not suited for street tree plantings and how these trees can help increase the urban forest's diversity.

   ACTION: Accept the 2018 seedling selections; solidify via email the 2019 selections by February 6.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Rauk
SECONDER:	Griffith
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Rauk

5. **Report: Printing and Publication of Final Draft of Revised Street Tree Planting Guide - Argona**

Rauk and Argona will make the last few revisions, edits and corrections to the proof, incorporating Dwight Curtis' recommendations regarding some items. Curtis suggested adding information about how adjacent homeowners are responsible for maintaining the right-of-way trees. Schott will also help Argona document another City Code reference. The document still needs to be approved by the City Attorney before it can be made public. Howard will get estimates for printing; Argona suggested considering a larger sized document. Schott expects to have the document ready to share with the public in time for the 2018 Arbor Day event.

ACTION: Argona and Rauk will finish the final edits; Schott will get proof approved for printing; Howard will shop pricing for printing the publication as both a large and small document.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Argona
SECONDER:	Hamilton
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Rauk

6. **Report: Planning for Downtown Tree Replacements – Filip/Rauk**

Filip recapped that they were talking about presenting a draft outline proposal to the downtown business district stakeholders regarding tree replacements and developing a list of appropriate tree species for the street tree plantings. Filip's outline to Central Business District (CBD) constituents will consist of: results of tree health survey; results of citizen questionnaire (more shade, increase species diversity, phased/selective replacement); proposing a short list of species well suited to the harsh downtown environment; listing out what the commission sees as concerns from the CBD constituents. Filip sees the MTC tasked with troubleshooting possible objections from the CBD constituents and finding a balance between their objections and the public's wishes. Expected objections to replanting are too much shade, leaf debris, blocking signage, street level interest vs. the upper stories and immature trees not providing enough shade. Filip will use the Transportation Commission's current request for public input for the Third St. Corridor improvements as an example of how to do this. Schott requested administration approval before any information is presented to the public and Filip agreed. There was a discussion on how the tree replacements could be funded, working with other City departments such as engineering, Taruscio's time as a downtown business participant and how new tree grates could incorporate the City's art component.

ACTION: Filip will begin the draft outline, Rauk will continue working on tree list; continue discussing in future meetings.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Griffith
SECONDER:	Argona
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Rauk

7. **Tree Classes for the Parks and Recreation Brochure – Schott/Hamilton**

The deadline for the summer catalog (April 1st through July 31st) is early to mid-February of 2018. Hamilton read her outline for the Tree Planting Expo and the groups discussed the event cost, who to invite, asking the presenters to provide door prizes, inviting Nichole Baker to speak about the City's Wisescape program, the Expo's location, topics and format. Hamilton will email her planning outline to the MTC members and contact Baker. Hamilton asked for referrals of anyone who would like to give a 10 to 15 minute talk or PowerPoint presentation at the Expo. Filip will contact Nils Peterson

about a possible grafting workshop. Argona offered to follow up on a drip irrigation class if it was needed; after discussing this it was decided to save this for a future topic.

ACTION: Approve Tree Expo and Fruit Tree Pest Workshop class; continue to research topics for final approval at February meeting.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Hamilton
SECONDER:	Rauk
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Rauk

8. Report: Research the Establishment of a Food Forest - Griffith

The MTC is determining the feasibility of a food forest within the City of Moscow. There was a discussion about the possibility of the project. As the site is not yet finalized, this topic will be discussed in the future.

ACTION: Approve the report and any future action will be postponed until the location has been determined.

RESULT:	**APPROVED**
MOVER:	Argona
SECONDER:	Rauk
AYES:	Argona, Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Rauk

9. Open Discussion – All

Filip recently observed weather related trunk damage on the southwest side of trees along Nursery & Orchard Streets, near the Grove Apartments. He asked if this was a common problem in Moscow and wondered if the commission had recommendations to prevent this on newly planted and immature trees. There was a discussion about the cause, prevention and treatment of this kind of damage. Filip proposed it as a discussion topic at the MTC's Farmers Market booth or the Tree Expo.

Filip asked if there was anything about tree planting in the City's Third Street traffic calming proposal; he also asked if the Tree Commission could provide input about plantings. Schott replied any of the members could get involved as private citizens during the public comment period. The group also discussed the recently completed landscaping around Moscow Middle School and how it could be a good model for the Third Street Corridor's landscaping.

Adjourned at 6:36

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 6, 2018

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Minutes Approved On

FEB 6 2018

Clerk/Deputy Signature