

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Clark J. Filip
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday
June 5, 2018**

5:00 PM

**Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street**

The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM.

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

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

ABSENT: Amanda Argona; Gina Taruscio, City Council Liaison.

1. Announcements

2. Approval of Minutes from May 1, 2018

ACTION: The minutes were approved as presented.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Rauk
SECONDER:	Kadlec
AYES:	Griffith, Hamilton, Kadlec, Rauk
ABSTAINED:	Filip
ABSENT:	Argona

3. Public Comment Period

Only for items not listed on the agenda, including responses to previous comments/questions from the public. Chair Filip recognized Greg Sarff of 1170 Zeitler Rd., Moscow, ID, who attended this meeting to learn more about the MTC.

4. Report: Status of Tree Seedlings - Rauk

The MTC purchased tree seedlings in recognition of Arbor Day and distributed them to the public at the May 5, 2018 Farmers Market (FM). There were no seedlings leftover at the end of the market. People were happy to receive the free trees and some mentioned that it was their third year picking them up at FM. Rauk commented that it was a good number of trees for the event. Filip thanked Rauk and Kadlec for representing the MTC at the Farmers Market.

ACTION: No action needed.

5. Tree Classes for the Parks and Recreation Programs Catalog

The deadline to submit classes for the August 1st Parks and Recreation Programs catalog is early June, 2018. The commission members discussed possible class topics including landscaping with native plants, apple tasting and youth arts or crafts. Griffith and Kadlec volunteered to teach a class. Hamilton talked to Tim Steury about his apple tasting tour and he's available October 20th but she won't be able to follow up with him since she is going out of town. Schott will check room

availability at the HIRC and Filip offered to coordinate with Steury. Class fees, cost of supplies and teacher compensation was discussed. Rauk contacted David Benscoter who teaches classes about heirloom apples in the Northwest but he will not be available until January 2019. The commissioners then discussed Kadlec teaching a class for children and what it would entail. Kadlec asked why the MTC needed new class ideas; Schott explained it helps the MTC receive the Tree City USA Growth Award from the Arbor Day Foundation. Rauk will contact Iris Mayes at the Latah County Extension Office about teaching a tree and drip irrigation course. Schott then requested that classroom reservations funnel through him since the MTC does not have a budget for this expense.

ACTION: Continue solidifying class details and submit to David Schott via email on or before June 8, 2018.

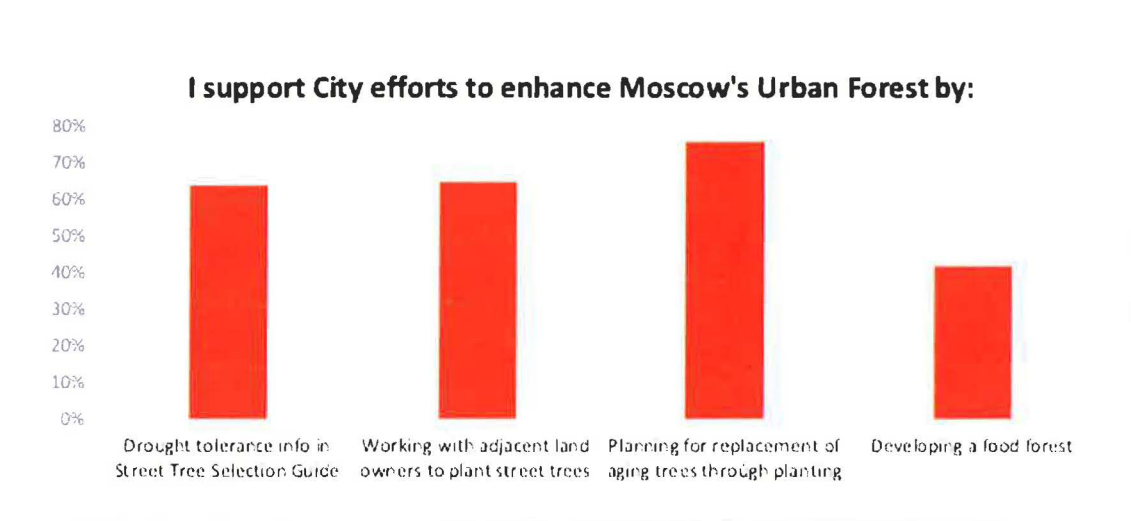
RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Filip
SECONDER:	Hamilton
AYES:	Filip, Griffith, Hamilton, Kadlec, Rauk
ABSENT:	Argona

6. Discussion: 2017 Commission Survey – Report of Results – Schott

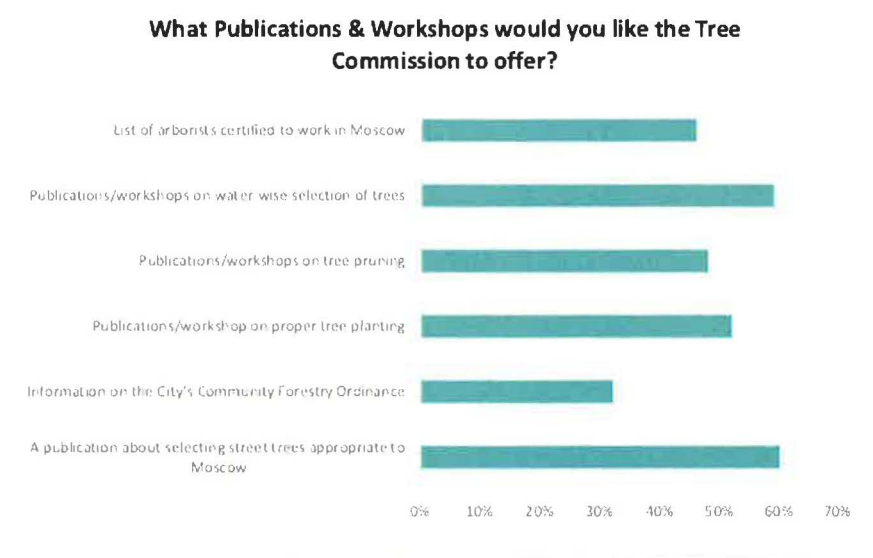
The first comprehensive Commission Survey was conducted in 2017 to assist planning, evaluate the quality of services and gauge the community's perception of the City's performance. Schott opened the survey report on the room's computer screen, from the City's website location:

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/DocumentCenter/View/8833/2017-Commission-Survey-Report>

Filip asked if this was part of the Park and Recreation Department's Master Plan survey; Schott clarified that it was not, it was a survey on behalf of the City's various commissions. The first question asked by the MTC was about enhancing the urban forest:



Schott was surprised that the citizens indicated, “planning for replacement of aging trees through planting” was the primary choice. He expected the food forest to be the public's top choice. Filip was encouraged that replacing downtown trees seemed important to the respondents as well.



The second question asked by the MTC was what publications and workshops would the public like to see offered. Schott explained that this question allowed citizens to choose more than one answer. The commissioners discussed the responses and then looked at the demographics of those who responded to the survey.

ACTION: No action, discussion item.

7. Review of Progress of Workgroups

The Moscow Tree Commission has several workgroups that focus on different issues affecting the urban forest. Schott clarified the definition of a workgroup; these are informal and task oriented projects, which do not deliberate towards a decision. Rather, this allows members of the MTC to gather information and bring it back to the commission for formal consideration. Some topics covered in the past by these work groups included ideas for replacing declining trees in mature neighborhoods and a heritage tree program. Filip and Rauk discussed their project of assessing the City's downtown trees and investigating a mechanism for replacing them as needed. Schott asked if Rauk and Filip could also compile a list of tree species best suited for the harsh downtown environment. This would, for example, allow contractors to have a list of recommended trees they could draw from as construction projects were completed. Filip and Rauk will continue to work on this project. Filip then asked Griffith about the food forest; Griffith replied that the installation phase is far in the future but the planning and discussion phases are going strong. In addition to media coverage some local groups are interested in collaborating on this and Griffith will continue to work with Parks and Recreation Director Curtis and report back to the MTC. Filip said this will be a reoccurring agenda item and the MTC will review progress and assess continuation of workgroups.

ACTION: No action needed. Discussion item only. Report progress at July meeting.

8. Open Discussion:

Filip asked the commissioners to think of possible themes for the next time the MTC staffs the booth at the Farmers Market on September 15th. He will make it an agenda item for the July and or August meetings. Hamilton offered to work on the display board but expects to be out of town on that date and will be unable to be volunteer at the market.

Filip asked if which members could attend the July 3rd meeting; despite its close proximity to a holiday, most will be available and should allow a quorum. The July meeting date will remain as scheduled.

Rauk read from an article published in the Journal of the International Society of Arboriculture, which examined the death of established London plane trees. Among the suspected causes of damage to these 130 year-old trees was the use of salts for deicing streets; Rauk proposed this could likewise be causing the crown dieback in Moscow's downtown honey locust trees. He felt this would be something to consider for future downtown street tree plantings.

Schott announced that the first round of FY 2019 budget considerations resulted in removing the possibility of a full time City Arborist. Schott had hoped this new position would allow for better management of the City's urban forest. He will continue to assume these duties.

The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday July 3, 2018

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Minutes Approved On


Clerk/Deputy Signature