

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Clark J. Filip
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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**Tuesday
August 7, 2018**

5:00 PM

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

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

PRESENT: Clark J. Filip, Commission Chair; Mary Jo Hamilton, Commission Secretary; Debbie Kadlec.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Heinlein, Parks and Recreation Commission Member.

ABSENT: David Griffith; David Rauk, Vice Chair.

1. Announcements. There were none.

2. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2018

Kadlec wanted to clarify that the question she posed during the June meeting regarding new class ideas was with respect to the goals of future classes, what was the educational component or purpose of the classes, not the new ideas themselves. After a short discussion, Filip instructed the August minutes would include this clarification. Hamilton asked who was in contact with Tim Steury regarding his classes; Filip is waiting for Steury to return his call.

ACTION: Minutes approved as presented.

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

3. Public Comment Period. There were none.

4. Report: Planning for the Downtown Urban Forest Plan

Filip began the discussion about the proposal and development of public outreach to the downtown business stakeholders with an update on his and David Rauk's progress. Their examination of the existing trees and questionnaire responses from the public indicated a gradual replacement of the trees was preferred. Filip voiced concern over the trees nearing the end of their lifespan as most were planted in the 1980's. Filip and Rauk suggested the next step in the process would be to reach out to the stakeholders, specifically downtown business owners and residents, asking for their input on the tree replacements. Filip would like to have a visual display for public consideration, similar to the one presented for the City's Third Street Corridor Multimodal Improvement Project and wants a poster exhibited on the second floor of City Hall, outside Council Chambers. This would allow the public to view the plan and weigh in on the replacement tree species and overall process. Hamilton asked how

the tree replacement project would be funded; Schott replied that once there was a plan in place, he would include it in the budget request for City consideration. The planning phase for Fiscal Year 2020's budget would begin in early 2019. Hamilton asked if the replacements would be completed in stages; Schott anticipated removing and replanting one tree at a time and suggested creating a long term replacement plan. He would incorporate a reoccurring item in the budget that would be funded each year until the replacements were completed. Taruscio mentioned that there could be collaboration between the City and future URA projects with respect to the tree replacements. Filip reiterated that the questionnaire indicated the public would like a phased replacement. He envisioned assigning trees a location on a grid and methodically replacing them based on their age, health and proximity to other replaced trees. Taruscio appreciated having a master plan with a target end date and anticipated the public and City Council would like this as well. In the past Kadlec worked with business owners unfamiliar with tree species and asked if there was guideline to assist with replacement choices. Filip answered that was a task for the MTC, to consider which trees were best suited for the harsh downtown environment and compile a short list. There was a discussion on desirable tree qualities, what tradeoffs were required for certain benefits and how to accommodate the majority of people's wishes when compiling an appropriate tree species list for the downtown trees. Filip and Rauk will continue to evaluate the downtown trees. Hamilton suggested keeping City Council involved in the process to ensure a successful project outcome.

ACTION: No action, discussion item

5. **Report: Edible Food Forest Park Plan**

The City of Moscow Parks & Recreation Department is preparing to develop the concept plans for an edible forest park. City Council approved the land swap and using the four-acre parcel for this use. On June 13 Filip attended Rural Roots' Edible Food Forest Forum at Hunga Dunga Brewing Company. Filip said this was a chance for the public to ask Parks and Recreation Director Dwight Curtis questions about the City's plans for the park and Curtis mentioned that there would be a committee formed to assist in the planning process. Curtis and Schott would like a small working group from the MTC to take the lead for the project's planning and design phase. Taruscio clarified that the purpose would be to make recommendations to City Council, not to make final decisions. Fiscal Year 2019 starts October 2018 and Schott will have funding to pay for a design plan. Filip felt that the Sustainable Environment Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission would also be useful resources for this project; he then asked if non-commission members could be invited to participate. Schott acknowledged that other commissions should be approached about being involved and expects a lot of stakeholder input but at the beginning. Schott wants to get a good conceptual plan with lots of public input by February in order to know how much to request for budgeting. Filip voiced concern about adding to the MTC's members' workload as they have other projects including working on class ideas. Schott will do most of the research and didn't expect this to be too time consuming; he will start drafting a project plan and he suggested waiting until the next MTC meeting to ask the absent commissioners if they would participate. There was a discussion regarding volunteer opportunities once the food forest was established, maintaining the trees, what the working group would involve and who would like to participate.

ACTION: The MTC will form a working group to take the lead in developing the edible food forest plan.

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

6. **Report: Tree Pesticide Application Program**

Filip opened a discussion on the City's current and future pesticide application policy; the Sustainable Environment Commission (SEC) is working with Moscow Parks & Recreation regarding pesticide applications on City property and at the future Food Forest. Filip asked Kadlec to update the MTC on this process as she is also on the SEC. Kadlec explained that the SEC was hoping to reduce or eliminate traditional pesticides' use on City property but that proved more complicated than originally expected. Director Curtis talked to the SEC about what is being done and how Otness Park will be a test subject for trying environmentally friendlier options. As an example, Kadlec explained the concerns over using vinegar for weed control as its high pH can damage the soil and beneficial organisms. Without thorough research the good intentions may still cause harm to the ecosystem and she advocated for more research. The SEC is forming a work group whose goal is thoroughly investigating options and educating those involved on how to not harm the environment before making recommendations. Mark Heinlein from the Parks and Recreation Commission felt that it won't be possible to be completely free of commercial pesticides and anticipates them being used more sparingly. Kadlec said that, especially considering the future Food Forest Park, the preparation of the planting area could make a huge impact on the health of the forest and the chance to eliminate undesirable plant species from the beginning without relying solely on pesticides. She felt that a process needed to be established that could work with current manpower and budget resources as well as public feedback but we shouldn't begin replacing one pesticide with another, we need to create a new philosophy. Taruscio offered that the chair of the SEC, Steve McGeehan, Ph.D., is a good resource for this topic; she also said that all information should be from a credible source or from someone qualified to offer it. She then mentioned that the general opinion of Moscow residents was that neonicotinoid use should be eliminated. Filip asked about using chemicals to treat the trees in East City Park for Dutch elm disease (DED) in terms of scale and time or do we reduce pesticide use and risk losing the trees. Schott replied that some would say they are heritage trees and should be saved at all costs. He added that he is researching new DED treatment products including a new fungicide and is discussing that with the SEC. Otness Park will be a good indicator of the effectiveness of alternate pesticides as that park contains turf, trees, thistles, a playground and is adjacent to a creek. He also mentioned that he is researching changing the current policy of annually treating downtown trees for aphid infestation with a soil drench to instead treat every other year. As the steward of the City's properties, Schott is interested in protecting the trees with the least impact on the environment; he anticipates good conversations in the future.

ACTION: Approve the report on the pesticide program from the SEC and P&R representatives and direct the MTC members to consider pesticide applications for future planning.

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

7. September 15 MTC Farmers Market Booth

The MTC will have a booth at the September 15th Farmers Market (FM). Filip opened a discussion on planning booth materials and who could volunteer. The members decided on the topics of the food forest, the downtown tree replacement program and replacing aging trees in Moscow's older neighborhoods for the tri-fold display. Hamilton will be out of town, cannot volunteer at the market and will be unable to help make the display; she said David Rauk still has the tri-fold board from the last time the MTC was at FM. Filip volunteered to create a display on the downtown tree replacements and replacing aging trees in older Moscow neighborhoods. Kadlec volunteered to work on something about what is a food forest; a discussion ensued about preconceived notions about orchards versus food forests and form versus function. Filip and Taruscio offered to staff the booth;

Kadlec will staff the booth if needed. Filip will see if Rauk and Griffith can be available to assist, gather up the tri-fold board and other materials such as brochures.

ACTION: Members will prepare the display panels and volunteer to staff the information booth as discussed.

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

ACTION: Approve the discussion and/or provide staff/commission further direction.

8. Open Discussion:

Hamilton asked about MTC member Amanda Argona; Filip replied that Argona accepted a job working for the City of Moscow and resigned her commission appointment.

Schott was contacted by Bill Loftus of the University of Idaho to attend the Farmers Market this weekend at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' booth. Filip read from the email that CALS had invited other colleges and Landscape Architecture to assist at the booth and with a kids' Tree Walk and discuss the benefits of trees with the public. As none present were available to attend, Filip will check with David Rauk and David Griffith to see if they could be available and he will follow up with Loftus.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 4, 2018

NOTICE: Moscow City Council Commission meetings can be televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

Minutes Approved On


SEP - 4 2018
Clerk/Deputy Signature