

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Clark J. Filip
Commission Chair

~Minutes~

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**Tuesday
November 6, 2018**

5:00 PM

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

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

PRESENT: Daniel Cronan; Clark J. Filip, Chair; Debbie Kadlec; David Rauk, Vice Chair.

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

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

ABSENT: Mary Jo Hamilton, Secretary; Gina Taruscio.

1. Announcements and Introductions

Filip recognized the newest member of the Commission, Daniel Cronan, and asked him to introduce himself to the group. Cronan is an assistant professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Idaho, teaching grading and drainage, digital media, storm water management, geospatial analysis; he is involved with a research grant for the National Science Foundation on a project in the Magic Valley; he worked as a landscape architect in Texas and Istanbul, Turkey and is on the MTC's Edible Forest Core Development Team. The current members then introduced themselves to Cronan. Filip then announced that the Mayor appointed Lauren Goss to fill the penultimate vacancy on this Commission. Filip expects Goss to attend the next meeting after she is confirmed by City Council.

2. Approval of Minutes from October 2, 2018

Kadlec requested an edit to the minutes; Howard will emend item 6 to remove inconsistent and contradictory wording. All agreed the deletion supported the intent of the October discussion regarding the Scope of Services.

ACTION: Minutes were approved with amendment.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Rauk
SECONDER:	Filip
AYES:	Unanimous
ABSENT:	Hamilton

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. Report: Annual Report to City Council - Filip

Filip presented the Tree Commission's Annual Report to City Council on November 5, 2018. Rauk was present at that meeting and commended Filip on a good presentation and his relaxed demeanor. Filip regretted not having more photos of current MTC projects but felt the presentation was well received.

ACTION: No action.

5. Consideration of an Official Name for the Edible Forest Park - Schott

Schott shared the list of names received from Moscow citizens during the 30-day open submission period and requested input from the MTC members for a final naming recommendation. Of the twenty-nine submitted names, three had multiple submissions. Edible Forest Park had three submittals and Arbor Eatum and Harvest Park both were nominated twice. The other names offered were: Arbor Eat Them, Dave Powers (Memorial) Park, Edible Abundance to Share (E.A.T.S.), Eat City Park, Eating Park, Enchanted Garden, Eve's Place, Food Forest, Forager's Forest, The Garden of Eve, The Giving Forest, The Green Bistro, Heartbeet Park, Indian Hills Park, MosGrow Grove, Munchy Crunchy Forest, Nez Pierce [sic] Park, Orchard Slope, The Palouse Flavor Jungle, Paradise Butterfly Park, Paradise Park, Tatkinmah Park, Treadible Edibles, Whirled Peas Park and The Wonderful Forest of Moscow. After a discussion of the suggestions, encompassing the staying power and relevance of the potential monikers, the MTC felt that Harvest Park seemed the most appropriate.

ACTION: Recommend Harvest Park to the Parks and Recreation Commission as the preferred name for the Edible Forest Park.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ACCLAMATION VOTE
MOVER:	Filip
SECONDER:	Cronan
AYES:	Unanimous
ABSENT:	Hamilton

6. Report: Progress Report for the Core Development Team - Schott

Schott briefed the MTC on the second meeting of the Edible Forest Park's Core Development Team (CDT) which occurred on site. The CDT viewed the location, made observations on the terrain and discussed how the parcel's layout made them feel. Cronan felt it was useful see the viewsheds while approaching the area by vehicle and from the access points. The CDT discussed this during the site visit; they were up on a high point and they were all looking out in the same direction. Cronan felt this would be something to consider in the park's planning. Filip asked for a clarification of the word viewshed; Cronan explained it is how topography can shape an observer's cone of vision, encourage people to look in a certain direction. Cronan also remarked on the sheer slope of the grade resulting in the challenges of constructing an ADA compliant pathway and directing storm water drainage to encourage ponding while preventing erosion. Filip invited CDT member Mark Heinlein to speak; he remarked that there could be areas suitable for a storage shed, composting (traditional or vermicompost) and a teaching or community gathering site. Kadlec offered that since this isn't a traditional City park, the group suggested not having standard lawns but instead incorporating different, beneficial grasses. Cronan added they discussed using non-traditional plants such clover for ground cover and to fix nitrogen in the soil. Filip asked about planting density ideas; Kadlec replied the area's use and access would need to be determined first, to allow designing for the purpose of the park. Another idea discussed was keeping pets out of this park as it's not an appropriate area for dogs. Filip asked Schott where the CDT was on their timeline as well as creating and achieving measureable goals; Schott replied they are a little behind. Schott's main goals are, however, to get a consultant on board and incorporate funding for this park into the City's FY 2020 Budget request and he is on track for those items.

ACTION: No action.

7. Report: Scope of Services for the Edible Forest Park - Schott

Filip asked Schott for an update on contracting a consultant to develop the Edible Forest Park's conceptual plan. At the last MTC meeting Schott shared a general outline he received from Bernardo-Wills Architects (BWA) on their proposed scope of services. Schott reached out to another consulting firm to get a second proposal; that proposal involved higher fees. The City started the process to prepare

a professional service agreement with BWA. There will be a kickoff scoping meeting, a public workshop, two conceptual plans, go-to meetings with the MTC and CDT and another workshop for the public, culminating in a preferred plan. The City Council and City Administration will need to approve the plan, there will be more fine tuning, cost estimating and Schott estimates a price tag of approximately \$11,300 to have the design completed by February. Schott has been please with Bernardo-Wills' designs in the past and expects similar results with this project. Kadlec asked if Schott would share the first page of the proposal including the project's description; Schott said that the full proposal it is not yet approved by Council but he will share it with the MTC. Based on what Schott shared at this meeting, Filip agreed that Bernardo-Wills understands the vision of the park. Cronan worked with Dell Hatch from Bernardo-Wills; he appreciates Hatch's strong work ethic, excellent hand renderings and in Cronan's landscape architecture classes he uses some of Hatch's graphic designs as teaching material. Rauk also offered positive remarks about the firm through his experiences at the University then asked Schott about funding the park's development. Schott replied that this park couldn't be funded through the Hamilton Fund, like other recently completed parks, as it wasn't solely for the youth of Moscow. This project will be funded by the city via the general fund and, as such, Schott expects it will be developed in phases. Kadlec asked who will plan the phases; from her perspective this park will require a different approach than planning traditional parks. She feels since this is a gardening park, requiring a permaculture approach, the ultimate goal is to prepare the soil for long term results; the most cost effective choices would be based on a holistic approach. Kadlec also advocated for involving the public in the process as the park will be user driven. Filip asked about the stability of the soil and a discussion followed about the historical use of the land for farming. Schott wasn't familiar with the recent use of the land; as the funding for this project could, at best, not be available until October 1, 2019, he wants to ensure the parkland holds over until the monies are earmarked for development. Kadlec cautioned about not doing anything with the land and the consequences that could ensue. Cronan offered to run the NRCS soil survey on the land and forward the results to Hatch; Schott will ask Bernardo-Wills what they need and appreciates that resource is available.

ACTION: No action.

Open Discussion:

Kadlec talked to Avista employees regarding their Right Tree, Right Place program and shared her findings with the MTC. She initially spoke with Ron Jones who does Avista's tree trimming; Jones told Kadlec that Avista could help homeowners replace improperly planted trees near power lines. Kadlec and Jones discussed ideas for educating the public about this program and he suggested Kadlec contact Larry Lee, Avista's Vegetation Manager. In Kadlec's conversation with Lee, he suggested there could be a partnership between the City and Avista for a similar program. Lee said Avista is developing a street tree planting guide and Kadlec told him Moscow already created one. Filip looked into this program two years ago but wasn't able to bring a program to fruition; he commended Kadlec's achievements and asked if Avista planned to bring this program to Moscow in the near future. Kadlec replied that it was currently only for Spokane; she would like to facilitate a pilot program where the City and Avista collaborated on tree work and used it as a public relations and learning tool. Rauk observed there were roadblocks he encountered years ago when he pursued this option; it seemed simple on the surface but was complicated when implemented and there were limits to the funding. He hoped that the program may have improved over time. Kadlec offered to email the MTC members about her findings and open the topic for future discussion, research and possibly even as a class topic. Schott expressed concern about areas like Fort Russell where there were healthy, large trees that might be removed for the sake of utilities and replaced with smaller specimens, resulting in a dwarfed urban forest. He would prefer to target trees that need to be removed due to disease, etc. rather than replacing healthy trees. Kadlec was also told that Avista was planning a major update to their infrastructure in Moscow in the future, perhaps in two years. As this could impact Fort Russell's trees, she wanted to know if Schott knew about that; Schott did not. Cronan asked if the City had a tree inventory and a legacy tree inventory. Schott replied that the Heritage Tree program is one of the commission's ongoing projects; he then said that the City's GIS tree inventory

needs to be updated but he hasn't had staff available to work on that task. Cronan teaches a GIS course and may have a student to refer to Schott. A discussion ensued about Moscow's tree inventory, tree risk assessment and the heritage tree program.

Filip announced that at the next MTC meeting there will be the annual elections of officers and he will not seek the chair position. He asked the current members to contemplate undertaking that position.

Adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2018

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Minutes Approved On


DEC - 4 2018
Clerk/Deputy Signature