

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
March 1, 2022

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
206 E 3rd Street

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld; Ellis Eifert, Chair; Mary Jo Hamilton; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell; David Rauk.

STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Gina Taruscio.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from February 1, 2022 (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: 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: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

There were none.

3. Consideration of the 2022 Arbor Day Celebration (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert / David Rauk

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 possible venues and began by sharing Milton Arthur Park's conceptual plan as well as an aerial view of the location. The City recently asked the public to vote on a playground design to be installed at Milton Arthur Park and there were comments on how this location needs trees. Schott will request monies in future budget cycles for trees at Milton Arthur Park but would like to plant as many trees there as possible, as soon as possible, to allow them to become established. A discussion followed about potentials for changes in Milton Arthur Park's design and damage to trees. If chosen as the site for the event, Schott will plant any trees along the periphery of Milton Arthur Park to avoid possible damage. Other locations discussed included Heron's Hideout and Triangle Park. Hartung and Brunsfeld would like to see a tree planted at Heron's Hideout; one drawback for Heron's Hideout was the lack of parking. Rauk contacted the director of the Adventure Club, Moscow School District's After School Program; if they can arrange for a bus they might be able to attend an event at Milton Arthur Park. If not, Rauk will contact Moscow High School teacher Leanne Eareckson to invite the MHS Environmental Club to the event. If neither of those groups can attend, Eifert will see if the Logos School kindergarten class can attend a tree planting ceremony at Triangle Park. Hamilton suggested planting a catalpa tree for this year's ceremony. Rauk will be out of town in early April and unable to attend this year's event and the tree bagging. Rauk contacted the Mayor's office and they are holding that Friday so he can attend; Rauk then went over the checklist

for preparations for the event. Schott will arrange for the Mayor to read an Arbor Day proclamation during an April City Council meeting and Schott will contact Idaho Department of Lands to invite a representative to attend Moscow's ceremony. Volunteers are asked to help bag the giveaway seedlings on Tuesday, April 26, from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, at the University of Idaho Franklin H. Pitkin Forest Nursery, 1025 Plant Science Rd. Rauk confirmed that there are 55 red dozier dogwoods, 55 western larch and 55 burr oak tree seedlings to give away to the public. Rauk and Brunsfeld will work on the flyers explaining care and planting of the seedlings. Schott recommended adding the carbon sequestration value of the trees and their taxonomic group to the flyers. Howard will print the flyers and type up the program of events for the day's ceremony. After the bagging is completed, Eifert will take the seedlings and store them in a cool, dark place, then bring them to the Arbor Day Ceremony and the Farmers Market event.

Hamilton moved to plan the 2022 Arbor Day event for Milton Arthur Park. Hartung seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of Tabling Opportunities for the 2022 Farmers Market Season (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

The City of Moscow Community Events Division has released dates available to City Commissions for the 2022 Farmers Market season. The MTC will discuss dates, assign staff and determine a theme for each Farmers Market requested date.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve dates, staffing and theme for the 2022 Farmers Market season; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott asked the FM staff to hold May 7 for the MTC to allow them to promote Arbor Day and give out seedlings to the public. Community Events also requested each commission to have an outreach initiative when staffing the FM. May's topic will be educating the public on Arbor Day and promoting the nascent Heritage Tree program; a discussion ensued on preferable dates and topics. The final choices were: May 7: Arbor Day and Heritage Tree program; July 9 (alternate date July 16): Watering mature trees; September 24: Fall is a great time to plant a tree, tree identification, benefits of trees, the role trees play in the climate, carbon sequestration.

Hamilton moved, Leffingwell seconded to approve the dates and topics as discussed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the Downtown Streetscape Project Trees (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott / David Rauk

The City of Moscow is pursuing a consultant for the Downtown Streetscape Project. The intent is to have design completed in 2022 with construction in 2023. The Tree Commission will discuss general recommendations related to trees for consideration through the design process. Tree Commission member David Rauk has submitted a draft of recommendations for consideration of the MTC.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve recommendations for the Downtown Streetscape Project; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott explained that next week the City is interviewing firms for the design and engineering of the project. Since he is on the interview panel he is asking the MTC for guidelines regarding the design process with respect to planting downtown trees. While the MTC's role will only be advisory, Schott believes their recommendations and expertise will be invaluable to the project. Schott especially appreciated the informative handout from David Rauk, and invited Rauk to speak on his suggestions. Rauk covered the salient points: connecting the tree wells to give them more room for root growth; focus on expanding the soil wherever possible; planting oval shaped trees as well as the traditional columnar shaped trees; pruning trees with larger canopies, training them away from buildings while maximizing the benefits they offer the downtown environment; avoiding trees with

shallow root systems as well as other undesirable qualities. Rauk suggested looking at Pullman's downtown tree plantings for ideas and inspiration as it is well done. Rauk and Hamilton reminded the commissioners of what the public indicated when polled about the downtown replacement plan. Those asked requested replacing the trees in phases instead of all at once and indicated a preference for an intermingling of tree species, which would be beneficial for many reasons. Years ago, Rauk and former MTC commissioner Clark J. Filip inspected the downtown trees and observed many growing up into the streetlights which should be avoided. In addition to poor soils from sidewalks and street paving, compaction of soils and the small tree wells, Rauk and Brunsfeld observed Moscow's honey locusts have surpassed the average downtown street tree life expectancy of ten years. The group also discussed sidewalk specifications, tree grates, porous pavers and the logistics of including planning for the success of the trees in the project. Schott thanked the commissioners as these items will help when working with the consultants on the Downtown Streetscape Project.

Brunsfeld moved, Leffingwell seconded to approve the recommendations as discussed and Rauk's document as reference materials for the consultants on the Downtown Streetscape Project. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

1. **2021 Tree City USA and Growth Award** – Schott was notified last week, the City qualified for both of the 2021 ISA awards and they should be presented at the 2022 Arbor Day Event.

Hamilton asked for more information on the award Schott recently accepted on behalf of the City. In January, Schott attended the Idaho Horticulture Expo in Boise and accepted the Legacy of Leaves award; 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 presented the award to City Council in February.

Rauk told the commissioners that the City's Draft Climate Action Plan is now public and he invited the commissioners to consider contacting kcooper@ci.moscow.id.us and ksteele@ci.moscow.id.us to request adding the below, highlighted wording. Howard emailed the document's link to the commissioners.

Excerpt from page 21 of the City of Moscow's draft Climate Action Plan with Rauk's suggested edits:

Sequestration

STRATEGY: Augmentation of urban tree canopy

ACTION: Develop a tree program

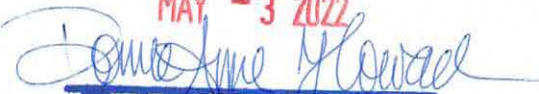
Trees play a vital role in sequestering carbon in Moscow. Many older neighborhoods have extensive tree canopies. However, some of the larger trees may be approaching the end of life and may be more susceptible to disease and many vacant tree locations exist along Moscow's city streets. Newer neighborhoods lack good shade trees because the trees have not had a chance to grow. Current standards require developers to plant street trees in new developments. Developing a tree program that encourages tree planting, helps homeowners keep their trees healthy and helps homeowners replace any trees that need to be removed are some potential options to include in such a program.

Minutes Approved On

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: April 5, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm.

MAY - 3 2022

Clerk/Deputy Signature