

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
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<https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/551/Sustainable-Environment-Commission>

Tuesday
May 17th, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
2nd Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Tina Hilding-Vice; Victoria Seever; Olivia Weibe; Sophie Gilbert; Al Poplawsky; Gordon Wilson; Nicole Xiao

STAFF: Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant; Kelli Cooper, Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist

OTHERS: David Hall; Ian Schlater; Mia Rognstad; Julia Parker

ABSENT: Marley Pankratz; Jassen Bluto; Jamal Lyskett; Asaph Cousins;

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission April 19, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the April minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

Al moved to approve April 19, 2022 minutes, Victoria second to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

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

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

None.

3. Tabling opportunity at the Moscow Farmers Market

The SEC is currently signed up for to staff a table at the June 4 Moscow Farmers Market. We will discuss outreach activities including seed packet handouts and a survey.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

Tina talked about possibly having a trivia game. Other ideas were; a subscription to the new scooters coming to Moscow, a bike tune up station, and possibly bee houses or seeds as a raffle grand prize. Also, to make sure there are kid's friendly questions as well. Steve will send out sign-up sheet for a SEC member to be there.

4. Composting considerations for the Palouse region

Mia Rognstad, a recent graduate of the Landscape Architecture master's program, brought the new Whitman County landfill to our attention and is interested in exploring composting options for the Palouse region.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

The U of I is looking to apply for a food reduction grant.

Tina talked about how residents in Zurich, Switzerland pick up food waste to be composted.

Olivia asked about the constraints for a compost program in Moscow. SEC suggested talking with Tim Davis, City of Moscow Sanitation Manager. Kelli says a big component that makes it difficult would be having another bin in the streets and pick-up logistics.

Latah Sanitation does do composting with the WRRF biosolids and yard waste from the recycling center.

Tina suggested a possible pilot or volunteer program. Maybe starting with restaurants.

Olivia says the students at the U of I are very interested in composting and would love to work with the City on a compost program moving forward.

Steve will invite Tim from the City and Stevie from Inland NorthWaste to speak with SEC about how to move forward with this concept.

Sophie suggested asking resident about a possible compost concept at the Farmers market table.

Julia also mentioned homeowners could do their own composting bins.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Consideration of the Climate Action Plan has been pushed back to July. Latest draft will be posted online soon.

City Conservation Department will be offering free irrigation audits to consumers in the City this summer.

Whitman County won the Nature Challenge.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Nicole Xiao

Nicole will be leaving for college this fall so she is recommending Ian Schlater to replace her.

3. Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)-Tina Hilding

Continued discussion on the urgency of the climate action plan.

Starting discussion with contractors on new buildings requirements; to be more carbon neutral. Omar starting up a Carbon Conscious degree program at WSU. Possibly meeting with SEC in July.

Steve Austin worked with City of Wenatchee's to develop a landscape code to be more climate friendly. He is open to work with Moscow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Palouse Basic Aquifer Committee is meeting on Thursday. The basin size has been redrawn.

The Co-op has a donation program called Change for Good that supports sustainable choices at the Co-op. They are also charging a .20 cost for paper bags.

Friday is bike to work day.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting June 21, 2022

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:12



Steve McGeehan, Chair *(or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)*