

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
August 2, 2022

5:00 PM

Mayors Conference
Room
206 E 3rd Street

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

PRESENT: Pamela Brunsfeld, Secretary; Ellis Eifert, Chair; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell.
STAFF: Donna Howard; David Schott; Gina Taruscio; Mark Heinlein, Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from July 5, 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 to approve the minutes as presented. Hartung seconded. 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 2023 Arbor Day Seedling Selection (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Moscow Tree Commission selected black cherry, saucer magnolia, and Fraser fir for the 2023 Arbor Day tree seedling selections. However, the Fraser fir was replaced by incense cedar. Recently, the City was informed the saucer magnolia failed to germinate. The Tree Commission will discuss a suitable third selection for the 2023 Arbor Day tree seedlings to replace the saucer magnolia.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve third tree seeding to replace the saucer magnolia for the 2023 Arbor Day celebration; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott shared a list of which seedlings were given away in past years. The group discussed what was available for purchase from the University of Idaho Franklin H. Pitkin Forest Nursery catalog.

Leffingwell moved to choose the Cascara buckthorn seedling for the third 2023 giveaway. Hartung seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Consideration of the 2024 Arbor Day Seedling Selection (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Moscow Tree Commission will discuss the tree seedling selections for the 2024 Arbor Day celebration.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the 2024 Arbor Day celebration tree seedlings; or provide staff with further direction.

The group considered what was available for purchase from the University of Idaho Franklin H. Pitkin Forest Nursery catalog.

Brunsfeld moved to choose a sumac seedling for the 2024 shrub giveaway. Leffingwell seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Leffingwell moved to choose pinyon pine for the 2024 conifer seedling giveaway, pending approval by David Rauk as suitable for this region. Hartung seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Hartung moved to choose the saucer magnolia seedling for the 2024 deciduous seedling giveaway. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Consideration of the Harvest Park Subcommittee (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

The Moscow City Council approved the Harvest Park Management Plan through resolution on June 27, 2022. The management plan was created after the formation of the core development team to utilize local knowledge. The formation of the Harvest Park Subcommittee will assist the City in the management and operations of Harvest Park. The subcommittee will report to the Tree Commission as a subcommittee of the Tree Commission. Members of the Harvest Park Subcommittee will be appointed by the Tree Commission. The Tree Commission appointed three of the five members during their July 5, 2022 meeting.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Appoint two members of the Harvest Park Subcommittee; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott said that Heinlein, Tim Steury & Zena Hartung were appointed to the subcommittee. Schott then suggested appointing Iris Mayes & Suvia Judd as the fourth and fifth members. After all of the subcommittee positions are filled, Schott can begin planning meetings.

Brunsfeld moved to appoint Mayes and Judd as members of the Harvest Park Subcommittee. Leffingwell seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. Consideration of Moscow Heritage Tree Program Nominations (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott

Moscow City Council approved Resolution 2021-21 in November, 2021, which authorized the creation of the Moscow Heritage Program. The program was launched in the spring of 2022. The Tree Commission will discuss nominations for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: 1. Approve two American Elms located at 124 North Howard for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program; 2. Approve one Black Walnut tree located at 907 East Seventh Street; or provide staff with further direction.

Schott opened the discussion on the first nomination, a pair of elm trees on Howard Street. The commissioners discussed the history and merits of these and the fact that they are still healthy and standing despite Dutch Elm Disease.

MOTION 1: Leffingwell moved to approve the two American Elms located at 124 North Howard for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Schott opened the discussion on the second nomination, a large black walnut tree on East Seventh Street. The commissioners discussed the history and qualities of this large and impressive tree.

MOTION 2: Hartung moved to approve the Black Walnut tree located at 907 East Seventh Street for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Report: Downtown Streetscape Project – David Schott

Staff will report on the progress of the Downtown Streetscape Project.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Schott attended the Downtown Streetscape public meeting on July 20th and was on the selection committee for the consultants. Schott relayed the MTC's recommendations to Cody Riddle, Deputy City Supervisor and lead for this project. The recommendations included caring for the trees' roots as what's below the ground is most important for good tree health; considering that the current trees are nearing the end of their life expectancy; avoiding a monoculture when planting new trees. Schott appreciated that the chosen consultant expressed interest in care and maintenance for the new trees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Leffingwell reported on tabling at Farmers Market; there was some confusion, another commission was scheduled to be there but Leffingwell was able to set up as well.

Schott said the billing insert on supplemental watering trees in Moscow didn't happen in July; the City will have it in the August bills instead.

Schott reminded the commissioners that the IRPA award for the Heritage Tree program will be presented at the August 15th City Council meeting and hopes all can attend but especially Brunsfeld, Hamilton and Hartung.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: September 6, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Minutes Approved On
OCT -4 2022
Donna Marie Howler
Clerk/Deputy Signature