

MOSCOW TREE COMMISSION



Ellis Eifert
Commission Chair

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

David Schott
Staff Liaison

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Tuesday
October 4, 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; Mary Jo Hamilton; Zena Hartung; Jeanne Leffingwell (arrived at 5:42 pm); David Rauk, Vice Chair.

STAFF: Donna Howard; Cody Riddle, Deputy City Supervisor; David Schott; Gina Taruscio; Mark Heinlein, Parks and Recreation Commission Commissioner.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Moscow Tree Commission Minutes from August 2, 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.

Brunsfeld moved to approve the minutes as presented. Hartung seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Four (Brunsfeld, Eifert, Hamilton, Hartung). Nays: None. Abstentions: One (Rauk). Motion carried.

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

There were none.

Eifert asked for a good faith motion to change the order of agenda items so that the Heritage Tree Program Nomination would be the fourth item, and change the Arbor Day Seedling Selection to be item five. Hamilton moved to change the order of agenda items as requested. Hartung seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

3. Report: Downtown Streetscape Project Overview – Cody Riddle

Cody Riddle, Deputy City Supervisor, will give an update on the Downtown Streetscape Project.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Eifert invited Riddle to begin his presentation. Riddle explained the process, which involves planning changes to Moscow's downtown to update the look and improve infrastructure while maintaining the area's unique appeal. The City conducted studies, held public forums, and asked for the public's input during Farmers Market. The public was asked for their opinions about retaining all of the trees, some of the trees or none of the trees; leaving the area unchanged, making some changes or completely changing the area; making changes to Friendship Square; adding water features, seating areas, play areas, public art, and performance venues. As a result of the community outreach, and after consulting with the engineering firm Welch-Comer & Associates, Riddle shared preliminary designs prepared by Bernardo Wills. The designs were based on input received to date and included images of other cities'

downtown improvements. The team is considering non-traditional designs with respect to stormwater management, asphalt and concrete color choices, providing seating for downtown users and acknowledged recognized balancing the need for parking spaces with tree placement and health. The commissioners discussed the presentation and asked questions of Riddle.

4. **Consideration of Moscow Heritage Tree Program Nomination (ACTION ITEM) – David Schott**
Moscow City Council approved Resolution 2021-21 in November, 2021, which authorized the creation of the Moscow Heritage Tree Program. The program was launched in the spring of 2022. The Tree Commission will discuss a giant sequoia nomination located at 617 North Hayes Street for inclusion in the Moscow Heritage Tree Program.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Recommend approval of Moscow Heritage Tree Program nomination; or provide staff with further direction.

Leffingwell arrived at 5:42 PM.

Homeowner Ruby Valentine of Moscow spoke about the tree's history, how they purchased the tree in 1986, brought it to Moscow in 1992 and planted it after that. The commissioners discussed the tree and its unique qualities. Brunsfeld added that the tree's full name is *Sequoiadendron giganteum*.

Hamilton moved to accept this nomination and enter the tree into the Heritage Tree Program. Brunsfeld seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. **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. During the August 2, 2022 meeting, the Tree Commission selected smooth sumac, pinyon pine, and saucer magnolia. The pinyon pine is problematic in this area and the saucer magnolia is difficult to germinate. Thus, the Tree Commission will discuss other options for the conifer and deciduous trees for the 2024 Arbor Day seedling giver away.

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

Rauk moved to choose the conifer blue spruce and deciduous Bur Gambel oak seedlings to be given away for Arbor Day 2024. Leffingwell seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. **Consideration of the 2022 Annual Report to City Council (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert**
Each year the Tree Commission presents the Annual Report to City Council. This year the Annual Report will be presented on November 7, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. The Tree Commission will discuss content of the Annual Report.

ACTION: Approve Annual Report to City Council; or provide staff with further direction.

Eifert opened the topic for discussion and asked for suggestions of what to include. Topics for the PowerPoint included: the Heritage Tree Program and the INLA award it received; 2022 Arbor Day Event at Milton Arthur Park; a summary of last year's accomplishments including, but not limited to the utility billing insert, tabling at Farmers Market; Harvest Park Management Plan; Bee City USA membership; Harvest Park subcommittee; recommendations for Downtown Street Tree Replacement Program. Schott asked for each commissioners to email him photos of themselves doing something outside of the MTC. Rauk liked the idea of providing candid and personal photos, he feels this will help freshen up the presentation.

Brunsfeld left at 6:00 PM.

Hartung left at 6:03 PM.

NO ACTION: Schott and Eifert will work on the presentation and share it with the commissioners for their input.

7. Report: September 24, 2022 Farmers Market (ACTION ITEM) – Ellis Eifert

The Moscow Tree Commission hosted a table at the September 24, 2022 Farmers Market. Those there will report on the interactions with the public.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: No action, report.

Hamilton met with many citizens and handed out lots of literature. She felt it was a good chance to interact with Moscow's Citizens and explain more about Moscow's urban forest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / DISCUSSION

Howard has accepted a job elsewhere, this will be her last meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

Next meeting: November 1, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Minutes Approved On

NOV -- 8 2022

Kristin Ingham
Clerk/Deputy Signature