

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
sec@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

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

Tuesday
February 21, 2023

6:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
1st Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Tina Hilding-Vice; Victoria Seever; Al Poplawsky; Maureen Laflin-Council Liaison; Ian Schlater; Gordon Wilson; Sophie Gilbert; Sam Gallaher

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

ABSENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Jassen Bluto; Asaph Cousins

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Introduction of new member – Sam Gallaher

Also, appointment of Gordon Wilson as a voting member.

2. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission January 17, 2023 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

January minutes will be approved at next meeting.

3. 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.

David says Pullman is working on a climate resiliency program.

4. City Parks Pesticide List

We will continue the discussion of the City Parks Pesticide List.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report or take other action as appropriate.

The biggest questions regarding the list is the impact on pollinators. Al has researched alternatives to neonicotinoids.

Does the City keep a detailed log of pesticide usage? Kelli will be looking into this.

Moscow is now a bee certified city; how does that play in with the usage of neonicotinoids

The keynote for the pollinator summit will be talking about pesticide use.

5. Mayor's Earth Day Awards

The SEC will discuss nominations for the Mayor's Earth Day Awards.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: take action as deemed appropriate.

Kelli gave a brief outline of the procedure for the award.

Victoria says the Unitarian Universalist Church is all solar now and would be a good candidate.

Ian suggested LeAnna Erickson with the Moscow High School as well. She has helped to generate funds for kids to go on field trips and she started the Environmental Club.

Kelli nominated the City of Pullman as a climate neighbor.

Gordon nominates Marc Wintz for him incorporating conservation measures into infrastructure, subdivision design and landscaping of the new Woodbury construction site.

Nominations need to be sent to Tina before March 14th

6. Middle School Solar Project

Discussion to write letter of support for the Middle School Solar Project

PROPOSED ACTIONS: take action as deemed appropriate.

Tina has drafted a letter of support that will be submitted to the local District for review.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Kelli's focus at the moment is classroom stormwater lessons. New vinyl wraps for Russell and maybe the High School.

March 1st is the Pollinator summit and February 27th is the youth summit.

Kelli's working on water conservation plan updates. She will be working on updating the rebate amounts and Wisescape rebate changes.

City of Pullman is starting work on an outdoor irrigation season ordinance.

There is talk of a regional water conservation plan in the future between Moscow/ Pullman, and both Universities.

Possibly collaboration with landscape architecture college students to help with wisescape design for residents.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Ian Schalter

Climate Justice League tabling at the pollinator summit.
Still working on getting solar panels installed on one school building.

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

Talking about Steps to move forward on the Climate Action Plan.
Meeting with Community Development to learn about Moscow codes. Working to collaborate with Citizens Climate Lobby, to increase electricity in new buildings and holding a seminar for contractors and developers on incentives.

Meeting with community groups to talk about incentives and spreading the word on tax incentives and rebates; possibly a column with the Daily News or a post on the City's social media site.

Wrote a letter of support for the solar panel installation on a Moscow school district building.
Next steps would be a vote on the changes to the solar panel support letter.

Al moves to send letter with the correction, Victoria second

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Al, Tina, Sophie, Victoria, Sam Nays: Gordon Abstentions: None.
Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting 3/21/2023

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM



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

Feb. 21, 2023

Moscow School District Administration
650 N. Cleveland St.
Moscow ID 83843

Dear Moscow School Board and Administrators,

We would like to express our support for a proposed plan to install solar panels at Moscow Middle School. We believe the project will be cost effective for the district while, at the same time, taking an important step in reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Most importantly, the project sends a strong and positive message to young people in Moscow that they have allies who are taking meaningful and cost-effective steps to help preserve their future.

Moscow has been taking a leadership role in addressing climate change in Idaho for more than a decade. In 2010, the city set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions for city operations by 20 percent of 2005 levels by the year 2020 – a goal that it reached. Last year, the city passed a Climate Action Plan that sets a goal for the community of being carbon neutral by 2050 and reducing emissions by more than 50 percent by 2035.

Moscow High School students and students in the Climate Justice League were critically important and passionate participants in the efforts to pass the Climate Action Plan. Many of them recognize that their future quality of life depends on our efforts today. According to a climate impacts assessment completed in 2019 for the City, Moscow and its surrounding region are expected to experience higher temperatures, decreased snowpack, drier summers, more frequent heat waves, lengthened fire season, reduced summer streamflow, and increased pressure on our water supplies in coming years. These expected changes are expected to adversely affect the health and wellness of our community, including our young people. As you know, we have started seeing the beginning of these effects.

Recognizing the challenge, Moscow students have held climate walk-outs, acquired a grant to teach other students about renewable energy, put together a detailed cost estimate for solar projects on school district buildings, have spoken at public meetings, gathered signatures in support of climate action, and are planning fundraising efforts. Over their years of these important efforts, the students have gone on to graduate, passing on their work to the next set of students, waiting patiently for action that justifiably demands impatience. Moscow students have been asking very politely for a better future.

With the dramatic drop in the cost of renewable energy and with the recent passage of the federal Inflation Reduction Act, reaching carbon neutrality goals is more attainable and affordable than ever before. Each and every community can make a difference taking action to mitigate our emissions in areas such as power grid decarbonization, building efficiency and electrification, renewable energy, reduction of vehicle trips, waste reduction, water conservation, and augmentation of the urban tree canopy.

As you move forward with your budget planning this year and into the future, we hope that you will act quickly in supporting this particular proposed solar project and all carbon reduction efforts as a top priority.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

City of Moscow's Sustainable Environment Commission